

COMRADE

Incorporating ACTION and UNION

Newsletter of Friends of O.M.

'The Spirit Lives...The Rest Will Follow'

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ONWARD! CHRISTIAN'S SOLDIERS

In 1982, a small committed group of men met in a hired room above a pub in London's East End. The purpose was to discuss ways of perpetuating the memory of the late Sir Oswald Mosley, who had died two years previously.

The outcome was the founding of FRIENDS OF MOSLEY - F.O.M. It was lead by a council of five, four of whom had been chosen in 1966 to run the MOSLEY DIRECTORATE, a body created by Sir Oswald when he retired from active politics. The initial work was the uniting of old friends by means of buffet socials, held all over the country. This success led onto a Commemorative Dinner in 1985 endorsed by the presence of Diana, Lady Mosley.

EXPANSION

A growing recognition that a vacuum existed in reaching older members together with interest from a younger generation, led to the launching in 1986 of COMRADE, NEWSLETTER OF FRIENDS OF O.M. By common consent John Warburton, a career journalist and life member of the National Union of Journalists became its editor, NO BETTER CHOICE COULD HAVE BEEN MADE. A follower of Mosley from the age of 14, his knowledge of the party was unparalleled. Under his Nom de Plume 'JOHN CHRISTIAN' the paper grew from an initial double-sided sheet of A4 to some editions running to 24 pages.

In the early days the grossest myths of the Mosley era needed to be slain. Hard facts on Olympia, Hyde Park, Cable Street, Bermondsey, Earls Court put truth into print. These deeply researched articles led onto ground-breaking landmark stories:

- The first two casualties of WWII were blackshirts.



JOHN Warburton A.K.A. JOHN CHRISTIAN HOLDING THE INEVITABLE CIGARETTE

- The 'loss' of hundreds of 18B files.
- The naming of B.U.F. members who died fighting the brother's war.
- Three years of research exposed Blackshirt Rosewarne's death being used for perfidious Government propaganda.

A ringing endorsement in December 1992 was the signed agreement with Sanctuary Press to allow UNION and ACTION to be incorporated into COMRADE.



LADY MOSLEY AT THE INAUGURAL F.O.M. DINNER

EXACTING STANDARDS

The strength of Comrade has always been its attachment to truth. Unless submitted stories were backed up with documentary proof, the editor would not publish. By his example, a group of dedicated researchers was established, whose work is regularly published in Comrade. In addition a rolling programme of book publishing, the

expanding list of known 18B detainees, nearing a thousand names together with other projects continue.

This record of honest reporting has without doubt generated a rising tide of interest in the Mosley years. Newspaper articles, books and television programmes, (not always favourable), have followed as have the enormous and available resources of the pre and post-war weekly Mosley newspapers, together with an ever-expanding professional web-site (www.oswaldmosley.com) underpins the whole enterprise.

We of the next generation salute John, Fred, Martin, Danny and Michael for their fortitude and forward thinking.

WHY 'COMRADE'

To arrive at the word 'COMRADE' for our masthead took considerable discussion together with a robust exchange of views. For too long the word had been associated with Communism and trendy, lefty, politicians. The problem of using the word had arisen before, when three British Union songs had incorporated it.

ON, COMRADES!

COMRADES: RAISE THE MARTIAL CHORUS

A MARCHING SONG (Comrades, the voices of the dead battalions)

The winning argument at that time 'implied an ideal of unity in the service of a common cause, together with the passionate struggle beneath one banner towards one end'. Anyway, to paraphrase General Booth of the Salvation Army 'why should the devil have all the good tunes?'

When the word first appeared in a British Union context The Leader opined [the word] 'may be used without prejudice. The closeness of our classless comradeship is the real secret of our strength and spirit'.



THE SPIRIT LIVES...
THE REST WILL FOLLOW

Friends of O.M.
No. 1



THE SPIRIT LIVES...
THE REST WILL FOLLOW

FRONT PAGE OF THE FIRST
EDITION OF COMRADE

CORRESPONDENTS WRITE ...

To the Editor of COMRADE

Sir,

Since Oswald Mosley died 25 years ago, the world around us has greatly changed, not for the better. In retrospect, his rich legacy of ideas deserves re-examination, and we are entitled to consider how his clear and creative mind might have addressed the new problems entangling his fellow-countrymen.

The notion that he was wrong to expect a major economic crisis misreads the evidence, for in 1930 on resigning from government he said he feared even more a 'long slow crumbling down the years' – an apt description of the fate of Britain under his opponents. He was right to organise a national movement, both for emergency response and for long-term regeneration. His specific warning that the system would begin to crash by 1939 or 'escape into war' was justified. There is no worse 'crisis' than an avoidable world war, particularly one in which his domestic enemies, by ignoring his advice on strategy and re-armament, themselves alone risked enemy occupation. Several established historians can be quoted in his support (Cowling, Barnett, Newman, Charmley, etc.).

When the Empire predictably disintegrated, Mosley advanced a policy of European recovery and union, which brought in our Dominions, enriched Africa, gave his country a formative leadership on the continent while protecting our internal way of life, avoiding bureaucracy but accelerating prosperity by his unique 'wage-price mechanism'. In trying to reach the electorate, however, he again encountered an organised media boycott and sinister collaboration between the 'authorities' and communist disorder.

This became particularly noticeable when he emerged as the earliest major opponent of multi-cultural mass-settlement, by whose cheap labour the financial establishment attempts to 'postpone' industrial collapse. Would Mosley have imported millions of Muslims and then inflamed them by illegal invasion in the Middle East? And would he not have tried to discourage decline in white birth rates in face of the third-world overpopulation explosion while opposing retreat into the suicidal illusions of 'debt, dope and dirt'?



He was perhaps a bit too generous in his elevation of communism and therefore its longevity, but the problem, to which he almost exclusively drew attention, of eastern undercutting across western markets is returning with hi-tech vengeance, irrespective of regime change in Moscow, the Balkans – or Beijing.

Jonathan Porritt writes: 'The idea that today's neo-liberal, no-holds-barred model of globalisation will last much longer seems fantastical anyway, as nation after nation feels the pain of China and other lowest-cost economies making it all but impossible to compete ...' (*Independent*, 4 Nov. 2005). Can we not imagine Mosley backing this environmentalist's call for 'security of supply in terms of energy, food and even manufacturing' with his usual 'detailed proposals'?

Many reassessments of other 20th century leaders have appeared in recent years – Mussolini, Churchill, Stalin, General de Gaulle, Mao, etc. Different authors reach conflicting conclusions by diverse manipulations of 'research' material. Whatever may be said for or against other famous men, Mosley's outstanding merits remain indelibly in the actual record.

What matter above all, especially today, are not his private activities but his fertile writings and speeches available in the public domain. Posterity will be grateful to his Friends for securing that enormous archive and preventing its abuse, while adding their own authentic oral history and photography.

Yours sincerely,
J. Cochrane.



MOSLEY AMONG HIS PEOPLE

Sir,

The dumbing down of public service TV and the degradation of academic history into a brew of Marxist propaganda and Postmodern psychobabble is well illustrated by the BBC History Magazine's recent invitation to carefully selected writers to nominate the ten 'worst' people in the history of Britain.

Prof. Clive Emsley (OU) chose Jack the Ripper, the sadistic serial Killer who mutilated helpless victims in east London, as the worst person in the 19th Century, while Prof. Joanna Bourke (Birkbeck) chose Sir Oswald Mosley, who offered hope to unemployed men and exploited women in east London, as the most 'pernicious' person of all throughout the UK in the 20th Century.

One Ian Herbert in Independent On-Line (27 December 2005) developed this theme with a series of untruths: Mosley's 'private army' attacked 'blacks', he was 'banned from fighting a general election', and he was jailed for 'treason' in the same year that marches through 'Jewish' districts were followed by 'rioting'.

Of course, not only our subscribers but all honest historians, familiar with the actual facts, recognise such statements as complete fictions, which if Mosley were alive would be matters for his libel lawyers, but given the moronic levels of illiteracy to which historical education has been allowed to fall in this country, a specific correction should go on record.

Prof. Bourke herself is quoted as choosing Mosley because he still continues to have an 'impact on society' and 'remains the inspiration for far-right groups'. By 'far right' is she referring to his detailed plans for systematically raising the living standards of Britain and its Empire, and later all Europe, for slum-clearance and maternity care, or his writings on taxation, parliamentary reform, abolition of torture, and workers' ownership? How thoroughly has she studied this subject?

Presumably she has in mind, instead, his prophetic opposition to multi-cultural mass-immigration, the dangers of communism, the second world war, the financial rackets behind global trade, and the eventual 'stink state' of organised crime, drug pushing and child prostitution?

Who is this opinionated lady? Apparently one of the toadstool-crop of writers on 'gender, class and ethnicity' – whose current 'work' is about the 'history of emotions'. Sample the review of her book on Fear reviewed in *The Guardian* on 19 February by Piers Brendon (no friend of Mosley).

Her 'choice' merely confirms two faces: (1) Mosley was the outstanding personality of British political life, uniquely influential not only during the last century but well into the present one, long after his death. (2) She hates him for it.

Yours sincerely,
John Venables.

SWINGS AND ROUNDABOUTS

ALL the fun of the political fair. You pays the price, jump on a ride, get propelled over a predictable course and always end up where you started.

Peter Kennedy examines the latest promises of the (new?) Tory party lead by a man called Cameron or in the vernacular of one Conservative heavyweight TORY LITE.

Like babies nappies, politicians should be changed frequently and for the same reason. Which is why David Cameron replaced Michael Howard, who succeeded Ian Duncan Smith, who – well you get the idea. The Tories have developed a loser's rash and want to come in from the wet. But Cameron's arrival is another re-working of the old cliché that change is sometimes the cynical mask for continuity. Not in this case for his party – whose terminal decline is likely to resume – but for British establishment politics now resembling more and more a state dictatorship.

EACH WAY DOUBLE

As Tony Benn says, Cameron and Blair could serve in the other's Cabinet or in a coalition whose leadership is at variance with their respective parties. New Tory leaders seeking legitimacy used to call upon some past hallowed figure from within, but Cameron is happy to be known as Tony Blair's heir apparent. And the more he talks, the more the credentials fit. And if you need the defining statement of Cameron's ideology, here it is, issued within an hour of his leadership victory:

"No more grumbling about modern Britain. I love this country at it is, not what it was." Yes, he's that kinda guy.

A REALITY CHECK

I hear people grumbling about modern Britain but they are in a minority. The majority do not grumble: they are angry, they despair, they are contemptuous of those in authority, they watch in disbelief, as the country they knew and loved changes, almost it seems, beyond recovery, they sell up and go abroad. Mere grumbling went out with the Two Ronnies.

Why? Britain "as it is", the one Mr Cameron loves, is bottom of the Western world's table in mass education, health provision, public transport, policing, and economic growth. It is at the top in illiteracy, dearth of industrial skills, exporting jobs, urban decay, crime – especially violent – divorce, broken families, single parenthood, and abortions. Other factors, loss of identity, white flight, dumb-downing "culture", New Labour corruption at every level of national life, cannot be placed in a league table; they are uniquely Modern British.

Insofar as David Cameron allies himself to the State we are in, he is part of the problem. And as he tells us, he allies himself wholeheartedly, emerging from nowhere as a conservative in one respect: on almost every point of principle he is committed to continuing the policies and legacy of Tony Blair. And like

Blair his natural habitat is social liberalism and New World Order globalist capitalism, Version Two differing little from the original aside from pink cheeks and a blue rinse.

ALL FOR ONE

Nor is Cameron alone. Here is his party chairman Francis Maude. "The redistribution of wealth does not mean that taxes for the rich will be raised." (then from whom?) Or on million pound bonuses to City bankers: "It is not for us to say who should get paid what for the work that they do. It is for us to say that there should be no discrimination against people because of their race or gender" And as Tories ditched an election "pledge" to set annual quotas on the number of immigrants and asylum seekers entering Britain. "Immigration has been good economically and has contributed to us being a much enriched country culture." If the Martians invaded England, Cameron/Maude would put in a good word in the hope that they would turn out to be good Tory voters.

All of this could have come from Blair, the Lib Dems, or the BBC, illustrating the controlled reality of our so-called democracy. In modern politics nothing is left to chance. The 'democratic paradigm' that says we all have a 'free choice' and a 'free vote' is in fact an engineered illusion designed to impose outcomes on the electorate, but done in such a way that no-one is able consciously to recognise that fact. Political debate whether in the party game or in the media is structured in such a way as to ensure that the debate and any

consequent decisions are contained within a set of 'acceptable political parameters' that do not usurp the status quo. And nowhere is this more obvious than on the issues of immigration and multiculturalism, where with something approaching fanaticism, "correctness" is imposed and policed (quite literally so) with the acquiescence of the Conservatives.

LA RONDE

So with Cameron we get the "cynical mask of continuity", a Metroland me-too power elitist and accommodationist leading a party that has ceased to hold to anything much beyond naked capitalism and naked ambition. The novelty effect brought a modest lead in the opinion polls. But even a tailor's dummy marketed by the Tory Press has a sporting chance against a jaded Prime Minister more unpopular and distrusted by the day, and Liberal Democrats who sink in drink and awkward positions. After Michael Howard, once described as man with "something of the night", Cameron is sold as the New Dawn. It is another illusion of course, for the Tories who have gone through more new brooms than a witch's coven, are no answer to Britain's predicament.

COMRADE

Thanks its many writers and readers for their continued support.

WHAT PRICE FREEDOM

The one abiding image of the last Labour Party, Brighton Conference was the sight of an 82 year old man being strong armed out of the hall. His crime? Daring to shout "nonsense" when the Foreign Secretary Jack (last) Straw was attempting the impossible-going to war in Iraq. Not only that, but when octogenarian Walter Wolfgang tried to re-enter the hall, the police stopped him under anti-terrorist laws. Bad Karma for the Labour Party. The resulting headlines made even a spin-ridden group of so-called socialists realise that things had gone too far. Next day a gritted teeth kiss and make up apology by Dr Reid and a round of

applause from conference.

On the same patch, Mark Wallace, peacefully collecting signatures for an ID card petition was confronted by five police officers. His details taken down and videoed. He subsequently learned that his statement would be permanently filed and the video kept for seven years. An innocent man is now linked to anti-terrorist investigations. The lawfulness of these actions come within the remit of section 44 of the Terrorism Act 2000. Brought in under the guise of being a powerful weapon against terrorism it is now being vigorously applied in a catch all way by constabularies all over the country.

AND YET MORE ACTION

Take the Serious Organised

Crime and Police Act 2005. This makes it illegal to protest within 1km of Parliament Square. Maya Evans, fell foul of this law, by simply reading out the names of our Iraqi war dead, near to the Whitehall Cenotaph. Arrested, held in a cell for six hours, prosecuted, and fined, the comment of Lord (Dome) Falconer: "A sensible measure to avoid disorder round Parliament". It was said this law was a move on veteran anti-war campaigner Brian Haw, together, with his long standing Parliament Square display of hand written posters. His protest goes on as the law, it transpires, is not retrospective. But even he felt the cold midnight draft when a group descended on him, temporarily

removing his entire display. Why? The Chinese President was passing the next morning on his way to the Mother of Parliaments. As Mr Haw wryly pointed out, Tony B was due to bring up the issue of human rights abuse in the People's Republic. Now, the visiting President has his answer. At least it made a change from the police lining up nose to tail police vans between protesters and the passing despot.

Without question, freedom of expression on all fronts is under sustained fire. This government, with the eager assistance of its superannuated cohorts, is well on the path of authoritarianism. The much cherished Habeas Corpus is in peril. We speak from experience.

YOU HAVE BEEN WARNED.

For decades, the secret trials of Tyler Kent and Anna Wolkoff have intrigued many people. Despite the recent panic shredding by the Government, enough documents have survived to at last expose the lies that have surrounded this case.

In a new book by historian Bryan Clough, he details in great clarity yet another attempted cover-up.



STATE SECRETS
The Kent-Wolkoff Affair

Bryan Clough
Hedderley Publications Ltd



published diaries of Guy Liddell, the Director of MI5's counter-espionage division, in conjunction with the new MI5 files, Clough shows that as Mosley always claimed his imprisonment was one of the demands made by Labour leaders as the price of entry into a wartime coalition with Churchill. He describes Attlee and Greenwood 'pressing for some action to be taken against the BUF'. Consequently Knight's objective was 'to work up a case against the BUF'. The problem was 'despite having four agents on the case for up to nine months, the only evidence that he had obtained about the putative Fifth Column had been contrived'. Clough's book and the Liddell diaries show that the Home Secretary, Sir John Anderson, was 'arguing on judicial lines, saying that he had no evidence that would lead him to suppose that members of the BUF would actively assist the enemy' and that 'unless he could get such evidence he thought it would be a mistake to imprison Mosley and his supporters'.

MI5 FOOLS THE BRITISH HOME SECRETARY

To meet the demands of the Labour leaders, Liddell and Knight embarked on a masterly campaign of deception on Anderson. The Liddell diaries record the latter held his ground, even pointing out that Mosley had issued an instruction to his Blackshirts to do nothing to impede the war effort and in the event of invasion to fight to the last man.

"But don't you see, Minister, you've been tricked", replied the two MI5 officers lying through their teeth. "Every Blackshirt understands that instruction is just a coded message, a 'cover' to help protect themselves".

Clough shows how the now desperate MI5 officers also made false claims that Mosley was involved in treacherous negotiations with Ramsey and others to replace the Government with one headed by General

CONTINUED ON PAGE 11

THE KENT-WOLKOFF AFFAIR: HOW CHURCHILL ALMOST LOST THE WAR

Churchill must have been a very unhappy man when he died in 1965. By then everything he set out to achieve had turned pear-shaped – mostly as the result of the Second World War he worked so hard to bring about.

The War was supposed to free Poland from foreign occupation. But after the War it became a puppet state ruled by Soviet Russia.

The War was supposed to safeguard democracy in Europe. But in 1949 there were twice as many dictatorships as in 1939.

Churchill thought the War would protect Britain's position as a world super-power. Instead it turned us into a bankrupt downwardly mobile Third Class power.

He thought the War would protect the British Empire that he cherished so much. It was all gone or going by 1950, including his beloved India. The wealth that could have been used to develop a great partnership of all the peoples of the Empire had been spent on weapons of mass destruction.

And if he thought the War would save Jewish people from German anti-Semitism he was wrong about that too. Most of them were murdered by Nazi fanatics brutalised by war.

SAVED BY SHEER LUCK

But it could have been even worse. Only two strokes of luck, both completely unpredictable in 1939/40, stopped Britain being occupied first by Germany and second by Soviet Russia.

Months before the War ended in 1945, Churchill realised that if our 'gallant Russian ally' kept advancing west, we were in no position to stop them. So he ordered the Imperial General Staff to draw up a plan for the invasion and conquest of Russia (1). Just in case.

OPERATION UNTHINKABLE

The report's conclusion was that we couldn't stop them taking over the whole of Western Europe – unless the German PoWs agreed to fight on our side. Something they almost certainly wouldn't do.

Only the chance invention of the atomic bomb saved Churchill and our people from a Soviet Britain. The 'overkill' of nuclear strikes on two large Japanese cities, Nagasaki and Hiroshima, was as much a message to the Russians as the Japanese in 1945.

But for another unforeseen stroke of luck, the U.S. declaration of war on Germany, nothing could have stopped an eventual German invasion of Britain after 1940.

And let nobody fool themselves, the Germans would have been cruel masters regardless of how much they admired the British.

Even so, the entry of America into the War was almost sabotaged by events that took place in Britain during the 1939/1940 'phoney war' period.

CHURCHILL CONNIVES WITH ROOSEVELT

Even before the fall of France, Churchill was in secret communication with U.S. President Roosevelt into how to bring 'isolationist' America into the war on our side. It was our only hope. Roosevelt was all for it but couldn't ignore the widespread anti-war sentiment of the American people. He had to be very careful, there was a presidential election looming later in 1940.

So whilst Roosevelt was promising in public that "no American boys will die in foreign conflicts", in secret he was conniving with Churchill to bring about precisely that.

The problem was, their secret correspondence was being copied by a cipher clerk in the U.S. Embassy in London. Tyler Kent was a man with a mission. He wanted to expose Roosevelt as a two-faced liar and stop America entering the war.

TORY M.P. PLANS TO SPILL THE BEANS

Kent met a White Russian called Anna Wolkoff. She introduced him to Maule Ramsay, a Tory M.P. who like her wanted peace negotiations with Germany. Together, the three of them planned that Ramsay would expose Roosevelt's duplicity and Churchill's complicity to Prime Minister Neville Chamberlain and possibly to other anti-war elements in Parliament.

If that had happened, Roosevelt would almost certainly have been defeated in the November 1940 Election and the U.S. would never have entered the War.

However, an MI5 officer called Maxwell Knight had successfully

planted agents in the Right Club: an organisation formed by Ramsay. As soon as they learned of Ramsay's intentions, MI5 detained the Tory M.P. along with Wolkoff and Kent to prevent them letting a rather large cat out of the bag.

NEW MI5 PAPERS REVEAL ALL

Many articles and books have been written about the 'Kent-Wolkoff Affair' on both sides of the Atlantic.

But only in recent years has MI5 released its papers on the subject – revealing a succession of lies and dirty tricks that even helped them to put a thousand Blackshirts behind bars and barbed wire. These files have been carefully analysed by author Bryan Clough in a fascinating new book: 'State Secrets: The Kent-Wolkoff Affair'.

After secret trials, Kent was sentenced to a long prison term in the U.K.; Ramsay was banged up in Brixton Prison for several years under Regulation 18B; and Anna Wolkoff was convicted as a 'spy' after an audacious sting operation orchestrated by Maxwell Knight.

ANOTHER MI5 STITCH-UP

First, one of his agents told Wolkoff she could get a message to Germany any time she wanted using the Italian diplomatic bag. Shortly after, another MI5 agent asked Wolkoff if she could get a message to Lord Haw-Haw (William Joyce), the wartime German radio propagandist.

So Wolkoff passed a message, no doubt written by Knight himself, from one MI5 agent to another MI5 agent. For this, she was found guilty of 'communicating with the enemy' and received a long sentence – even though the message was probably never even sent.

Bryan Clough also shows that the recent releases clearly indicate that Joseph Kennedy, the U.S. Ambassador to Britain, and Earl Jowitt, the Solicitor General who led the case for the prosecution, had little regard for the truth when they made public statements after the event to protect their own interests regarding the Kent-Wolkoff Affair.

MOSLEY PROVED RIGHT

However, Knight was after bigger fish. Using the recently

"Now we must work for a United Europe"

The prophetic words of Sir Oswald Mosley, on the day victory was declared in Europe. A man, so often ahead of his time in political thought, knew that chasing the old dream of Empire and Nationalism would become a self-defeating issue. How best to advance such a radical concept of Europe a Nation against a backdrop of venal enmity towards the vanquished? After years of imprisonment and house arrest, the first priorities for him were recovery of health, then writing a book defending his opposition to the war (My Answer). This would be followed by a further hardback, setting out the new thinking (The Alternative). From that point the real question: "A simple peddler of ideas", or the launch of a Pan-European Movement?

The lead up to such a momentous decision can be traced back to the early war years, when a government thought it had smashed, forever the spirit of Mosley, and a countless number of his followers.

DECLARING FOR EUROPE

By Gregory Maitland

In June 1940, British Union was closed down. In the face of a thousand arrests, desperate times for those who were left behind. Instant imprisonment often meant instant penury for families and loved ones, the spread of 5th Column rumour by an obsessed vindictive executive added ostracism to the mix. People outside often had an equally rough time as those inside.

In the wake of such hardship the 18B Detainees' Dependents Appeal Fund was formed. Later this was registered under the War Charities Act, as the 18B Detainees (British) Aid Fund, with offices at 21 Grays Inns Road, WC1. Its Chairman was George Dunlop of Limehouse Branch. The Secretary was Mrs P.E. Jones, Treasurer John Jones, assisted by Committee members, E. Conner and Clifford Woodland.

Unlike many of today's charities, the 18B Fund steered clear of political propaganda, but through a sister organisation, The 18B Publicity Council, aimed to 'ventilate the constitutional and moral issues arising from 18B'.

Notice of the first meeting at Holborn Hall in surviving documents is marked 'details submitted to authorities - no objections'. At the same time, a special Winter Appeal was launched by the Fund for warm clothing together with a Children's Appeal. From prison the Leader sent his blessing asserting "it is by far the best work his old associates can do". The 18B Fund began by sending prisoners food parcels, clothing, tobacco and other comforts also helping those released who were finding great difficulty in getting jobs. Neither did it forget the "suffering callously brought upon British wives and children by the removal from their homes of those against whom no crime is alleged". With those in mind, the 18B Fund mounted an 'adopt the family of a detainee' campaign.

A GENEROUS RESPONSE

At the end of the year, Dunlop was able to announce a total income of £1325 for the previous ten months, all of which had been distributed. The next year, through donations, collections and concerts the figure had risen to £1573. The Concerts were organised by Bill Luckin at the Kingsway Hall. In October 1943 the soprano Elsie Arnold sang. By May 1944, the programme had acquired a less cultural tone when John Charnley appeared as the 'Demon Doughnut King' assisted by Charlie Watts!

Meanwhile, the 18B Publicity Council was stirring the



BILL LUCKIN

'Democratic Conscience' by reporting conditions endured by some detainees in Walton Gaol Liverpool. It described 'solitary confinement in a darkened cell 9' by 5' for 23 hours a day for months on end ... filthy bedding resulting in Taenia Dermatitis. In other camps conditions were barbarous, and medical neglect widespread. Third degree interrogation and other brutalities were commonplace at the notorious Latchmere House, Ham Common.

It is without question that the charitable work of the fund was an absolute life-line to many on both sides of the wire.

A JOB WELL DONE

In August 1945, a Notice of Winding Up of Accounts and Final Appeal was made by George Dunlop. This paid special attention to the 'upbringing of children of detainees who died so suddenly after release that one must accept their demise was accelerated by the conditions of their detention'.

During the period of its existence the 18B Fund had:

- given sustained assistance to 140 families,
- temporary assistance to over 350 cases,

- after release assistance to 200,
- representation to Government Departments for 143
- found employment for 34 Blackshirts.

Monthly sums had been provided for 180 men and women during detention and the total raised was £6000: a sum equal to £250,000 at today's value.

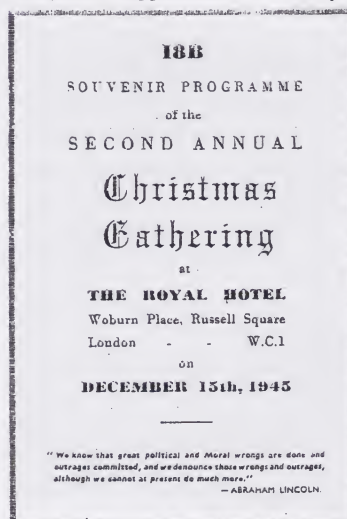
Exactly what this meant to individual Blackshirt detainees is shown in a letter written in 1942 by the late Wally Porter of Salisbury - a former agricultural workers' trade union leader, recently released from the Isle of Man. "I have received a second-hand overcoat in good condition and also a pair of boots. Also they are sending me five shillings a week until I get on my feet again which is a great help, believe me".

A SURPRISE VISIT

The final event was a Christmas gathering on the 15th December 1945 at the Royal Hotel, Woburn Place, Russell Square, London where, amid scenes of wild enthusiasm, The Leader accompanied by his wife, made a surprise appearance. Mosley



GEORGE DUNLOP
CHAIRMAN OF THE 18B
DETAINEES FUND WAS THE
PRE-WAR B.U.F. NATIONAL
ORGANISING OFFICER



PROGRAMME FOR THE
FINAL 18B SOCIAL

thanked everyone for their loyalty during such dark and troubled times. IT WAS THE FIRST TIME HE HAD HAD THE OPPORTUNITY TO SPEAK TO HIS FOLLOWERS IN OVER FIVE YEARS. The group of people attending was enlarged by ex-detainees and Blackshirts, home from the Services. The estimated number was at least 1200; a figure that it is known caused some concern to the ruling Labour Government.



GEORGE SUTTON

From that point Blackshirt endeavours were concentrated on the publication of the MOSLEY NEWSLETTER edited by his faithful long term private secretary, George Sutton. Also in 1946 Mosley published MY ANSWER. This gave clarity to the years of unanswered lies and allegations during his imposed silence. Within the same volume the seventh edition of the 1938 classic TOMORROW WE LIVE was reprinted. In the face of a total press and book trade boycott, ways were needed to be devised to overcome these obstacles. The answer was the formation of dozens of Book Clubs and Literary Circles around the country. Backed up with posters and cinema advertisements, this made certain the book gained national attention.

PHOENIX BOOK CLUB

BM/VITO,
London, W.C.1.

This book is due for return on or before the date below

19 OCT 1947

1 DEC 1947

25 DEC 1947

20 FEB 1948

Please ask for other books available for reading. The period of loan (2 weeks) may be extended: application should be made to the Sec'y.

SPREADING THE WORD. A BOOK CLUB LIBRARY IN ACTION

No. 6 April - May 1947

MOSLEY

AN ECONOMIC POLICY BY OSWALD MOSLEY PAGE 5

NEWS LETTER

Editor G. J. SUTTON MONTHLY Price 4d.

THE GREAT BREAKDOWN Present System or Leadership Principle?

WE still live in an economic crisis which threatens the life of Britain. Our people feel the growing pressure of ever-increasing restrictions and suffering. Last month I suggested a "way out." You may have agreed or disagreed, but at least you understood what was meant. Right or wrong, the policy was definite and intelligible. Since then the economic situation has been debated for six days in the two Houses of Parliament, and in almost every article. I defy anyone to summarise the result in terms which are either definite or intelligible. Seldom have so many words been spoken or written to such little effect. Some of the debating "surfs" were magnificent; but was not it all for fun. But the empty words still echo round the corridors of the nation. What concrete policy was sug-

gested from any side? Let anyone debate the policy of the old parties if he can, in the plain language that stated a policy in these columns last month. No one can do this, because no such policy exists. Neither Government nor Opposition possess even the vaguest of a "way out."

The reason for this failure was suggested before the debate in the White Paper, which was the subject of discussion, in the following words: "Indeed, the task of directing by democratic methods an economic system as large and complex as ours is far beyond the power of any Governmental machine." The governing words of this illuminating phrase are, of course, "by democratic methods."

The same point was underlined after the Debate in a leading article in the Economist, which stated: "The Government was almost

FRONT PAGE OF A MOSLEY NEWS LETTER

MARCHING ON

Meanwhile more overt political activity was taking place in the form of public meetings and the distribution of newsheets. Victor Burgess, founded the UNION OF BRITISH FREEDOM (U.B.F.) publishing 'UNITY'. Another activist was Jeffrey Hamm, a Welsh schoolteacher by profession and Blackshirt by conviction. After internment in the Falklands and South Africa, he returned to this country and was called-up into the Army, serving in the Royal Armoured Corps. Inexplicably discharged in 1944, he joined James Taylor, who had founded the LEAGUE OF EX-SERVICEMEN, a breakaway ginger-group in opposition to the BRITISH LEGION. As a gifted orator Hamm espoused the name of Mosley from his platform, a brave thing to do while 'VI Doodlebugs and V2 Rockets were falling on the Home Counties. Despite considerable opposition people listened in increasing numbers. He later took over the running of the



VICTOR BURGESS



JEFFREY HAMM SPEAKING AT RIDLEY ROAD

organisation and renamed it THE BRITISH LEAGUE OF EX-SERVICEMEN AND WOMEN. With a backdrop of British servicemen being murdered in Palestine together with the liberal use of dynamite and bullets, Hamm felt honour bound to protest. Despite hysterical opposition and on one occasion being felled by a brick, he fought back, attracting record crowds often numbering over 400 people at each meeting. Another time he

was arrested for calling the opposition 'pale pink palpitating pansies' together with observing the Prime Minister Clement Attlee; 'The sort of man who enters a room in such a way that you think someone has just gone out'. For that he was bound over to keep the peace!

With such record attendances he made the bold decision to include Ridley Road, the scene of so many pre-war Mosley triumphs to his growing number of venues. Very soon this developed into what became known as THE BATTLE OF RIDLEY ROAD. Over a period of eight weeks, friend and foe battled it out. In the end, Hamm won. A Pamphlet was later published to celebrate the fact. In October 1947, against a groundswell of growing public interest Mosley published his polemic 'THE ALTERNATIVE' which set out in great detail the way ahead.

A HISTORIC MEETING

A few weeks later on Saturday 15th November 1947 a crucial meeting took place at the historic Memorial Hall, Farringdon Street, London. This was described as a Winter Sales Conference of Mosley Publications. Mosley listened with interest to secretaries and supporters of the Book Clubs together with representatives of associated pro-Mosley organisations calling for him to re-enter the political arena.



STREET MEETING OF THE BRITISH LEAGUE OF EX-SERVICEMEN AND WOMEN



JEFFREY HAMM ADDRESSES AN ATTENTIVE AUDIENCE



JEFFREY HAMM SPEAKING FROM THE BALCONY

Sir Oswald,

I claim to speak for the people who had the courage to fight organised opposition that tried to sweep us from the streets.

For those who did hold meetings in the face of violence, Our meetings closed down, going to the next street corner, broken up again, going again to the next street corner, sometimes starting again as many as four times. Then going to Hackney, to a place of which you have heard where we fought and won the Battle of Ridley Road.

We were prepared to have gone on fighting, but what has and is; holding us back is that we lack a National Leader.

Often the mistake is made of attaching all the importance to the speaker forgetting all the other people who help to make the meeting, the people who sell the literature, who take the collection and hum-drum jobs like that.

Tomorrow we shall be at Ridley Road, we send out an invitation to those in this hall tonight to be there, and join the thousands of British people in raising the cry WE WANT MOSLEY.

Jeffrey Hamm

British League of Ex-servicemen and women

Sir,

When I put my name down I was rather scared to speak at an indoor meeting, I am more used to outdoor meetings, and find speaking in the streets much easier.

We have not given up the struggle, we have fought on, but it is a lonely struggle, and with your genius, your courage, and your inspiration to lead us, in a very short time not only could we have London, but the whole of England right at our feet.

I know that to carry out the theme laid down in THE ALTERNATIVE, we can definitely build a greater and better civilisation, and because of this, my colleagues and I ask you to come back. We pledge ourselves to serve you to the utmost of our ability.

Michael Ryan

Brixton

Sir Oswald,

I and my friends of East London could have, speaking in the parlance of the East End could have 'chucked up the sponge', we never chucked up the sponge, we were inspired by the voice of the past, of the greatest living Englishman, Oswald Mosley. Come back and lead us: come back and lead England.

Duke Pile

East London

Sir,

It has often been said that the British People are not worth fighting for, that may be, so we may think, but the vast majority of the British People in the past have had no clear idea of what our aims are.

But in England today there has arisen a new generation, and I appeal to you as the greatest Leader in this country to cast aside any prejudice or bitterness and come out and lead the fight for the new generation.

Mr Hearn

Paddington

Sir,

I would like first of all to address remarks, not because of my service in the last war, but because of my task in the present day. I am employed, my work takes me in very close contact with these unfortunate people who come within the scope of the Poor Law. I find on my round from day to day a hopeless set of people, who, in the twilight of their lives, are living in misery, which is disgraceful in a country like England. We find much trumpeting that they are going to scrap the Poor Law, and bring into existence National Assistance Boards. They are going to have hotels for the poor and aged. I say this just means that the sign writer instead of putting 'Institution for the Aged' will cross out the word 'Institution' and put 'Hotels for the Aged', and the same building will be there, the same old disgraceful conditions.

Secondly, during the war there were men by my side who served by my side, because they thought they were giving their lives to give greater and fuller lives to their people. These men have been betrayed, I should like to say on behalf of the poor, aged and hopeless people, on behalf of the many Ex-servicemen, on behalf of those men who died in the last war, I should like to ask you on their behalf, will you take the key which you alone hold Sir, break those chains and lead us to the destiny which we can fulfil with you alone as our Leader.

Ken Dick

Salisbury Modern Book Club.

Sir Oswald,

I have been urged on behalf of members of Oxford City and University, which is now open to the vile, corrupt, soul-destroying Communist propaganda, to ask you to return immediately to the political arena and give us Leadership. Most members of the University served throughout the war for high ideals as they believed, but these men are now devoured by a vile corruption of lies.

England needs to be great, but it can only be great if its youth is great. You are the only man that can lead the youth of England, because you are the incarnation of all that is good in the youth of England.

P. Thomas

Oxford Union

Sir Oswald,

I fully recognise the very great contribution you have made in formulating the ideas, which you have expressed in THE ALTERNATIVE, but I and others find it difficult to see how these ideas can ever be brought actually into practice except with your Leadership in a Political Movement once again. In THE ALTERNATIVE, you say that you will be always ready to serve your country in the time of crisis, some of us feel that this crisis is already with us or not far off and the civilisation which you have pictured to us, and which we envisage, can only be won by your return to active politics, and giving us the power to put into practice the idea which you have expressed.

Bob Saunders

Wessex Book Club (Dorchester)

Sir,

I am afraid I am no speaker, but believe my task and my duty lies in the foundation of my living for my children. That is why I, on behalf of my children, and the rest of the children of Britain demand that you-lead us not tomorrow, but from today.

Charles Elliott

Wessex Book Club (Bournemouth)

Sir,

I represent the Union for British Freedom, Many tributes have been paid to your personality and your inspiration tonight, we all know just what your inspiration means to us. We at first met violent opposition, but now the people are crying out for a Leader, and we all know today that they are ready to accept Oswald Mosley as their Leader.

Victor Burgess

Union for British Freedom

Sir Oswald,

When I put my name forward Sir to ask a question, I intended to ask just a simple question which has already been put forward, namely, is Sir Oswald Mosley ready and prepared, like we are, to form, lead and partake in an organisation to carry out the ideas laid down in THE ALTERNATIVE, but as that simple question has already been asked, I put a supplementary question, how can we be worthy of you and your ideas.

Douglas Peroni

Hampstead Literature Society



DURING 1946/7 MOSLEY VISITED A NUMBER OF BOOK CLUBS TO MEET AND TALK TO MEMBERS

Sir,

I find it rather difficult to follow so many accomplished speakers who have put the very thoughts and words that have been in my own heart for the last seven years, I have waited for this moment, and I know that not only people in this hall, but people throughout the length and breadth of the land would like to hear it. Because they are not here tonight it does not mean that they will not hear the message of this meeting which is conveyed to you by various members of the audience, and by the whole audience as one man. That message will radiate from this meeting throughout the length and breadth of Britain, because we know there is only one hope, only chance alone of saving this country, of saving Europe, and that hope lies alone in your Leadership. I have never lost faith or hope, because I knew that the day would come, in Mosley's own good time, because he alone can be the judge of the right moment, and I know that the time would come when he would again feel that he could save Britain. Now a far longer, far nobler task arises to save the soul of Europe, the whole civilisation, and I know that it has been a great sense of power, a great sense of confidence in the future, to read the inspiring words in that book, it is more than a book, it is a testament, it is the greatest hope for the future. A short while ago I felt like a man looking through a tunnel to eternal darkness, but now the light shines through, and there we see before our eyes the only man that can lead this country. I do not want to take up a lot of time, but I do want to say that this is the moment I have not only waited for, but the moment I have prayed for, I ask you Sir, I don't ask, I demand you, to come back.

Mick Clarke
Bethnal Green

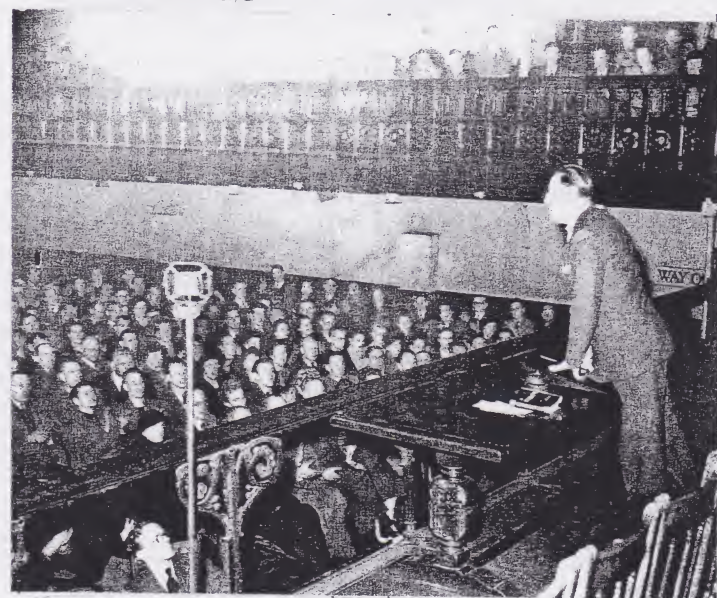
Well Sir, I don't think that I can add very much to what has been said tonight. One point on personal experience during the last year when I have been actively in touch with many of the people who have spoken tonight, let us re-dedicate ourselves to the new task ahead.

Don't throw all your burdens on Oswald Mosley, you, every one of you, have got to carry burdens in the future, and realise that if you are going into this great struggle and great task, it is one thing to ask Mosley to lead you, but you have got to play your part, so let us tonight in asking this great man who has suffered so much for Britain to suffer more for Britain, let us re-dedicate ourselves and think not what we have done in the past but what we are going to do in the mighty tasks in the future. We have all suffered, and we suffer more in the humiliation of our country than anything else. We want you, Sir to lead us in order that our ranks might find through union a new born strength. We know that under your leadership and under your Leadership alone, our stricken country can be saved again through the union of all that is best in Britain, and once that is achieved, then again under your Leadership Britain can take her place in the councils of the nations, which she has lost, and can bring about the union of Europe that we wish. We know it is a mighty task, but we must have the inspiration that only you can give tonight again, the flame of great endeavour.

Raven Thomson
West London



A 'FULL HOUSE' AUDIENCE LISTENING TO MOSLEY AT A TYPICAL MEETING



MOSLEY AT FARRINGTON HALL 15TH NOVEMBER 1947

My Friends,

No one could hear the words that have been spoken here tonight by old and beloved friends and by new and fine young spirits without being profoundly moved by that appeal.

It is a thing that I have thought about very deeply ever since my main task of the post war period, the writing of *THE ALTERNATIVE* was finished. I thought my first task after the war must be to formulate a new idea that was not easy; it took a long time to embody the result of five years reading and thought. It is not easy to formulate and prescribe a new concept of civilisation, it requires deep concentration, and until it was done I did not lift my head or reflect on anything else, it had to be done, and it is done. Since then I have thought about this thing which has been raised here tonight.

We cannot stand aside and see England sink, but no man of my experience would be looking for further tasks of the kind, or burdens of the sort I have to carry. I have no bitterness within me, certainly I do not blame the British people, while even the sneers of the small minded person is something I hope I have never cared anything about but held in contempt. Let them be and let them go, what matters to us is England and Europe.

It is a formidable task, nothing is the same as before the war, my method could not be entirely the same, I have to rely now much more upon the written word than before the war, because it is only by the written word that I can reach the audience I have to reach. My duty and mission to reach out to the wider audience of the European.

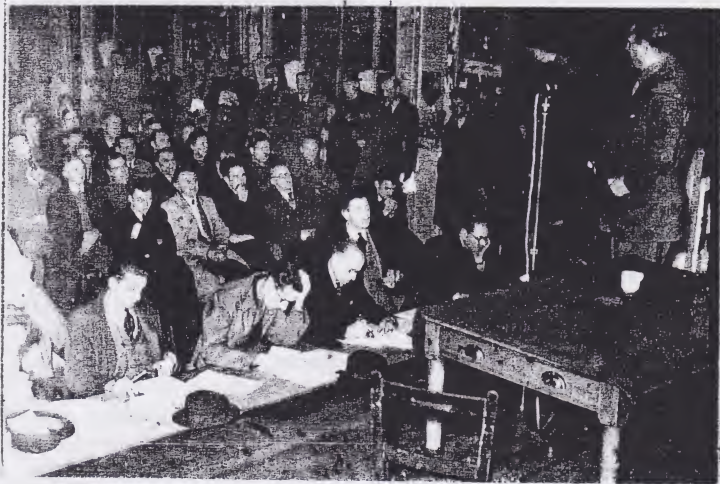
In the old days we had to go out into the highways and byways finding men and women and we did find them, set, true, hard as steel, ready to endure, and so that steel framework of our Movement which has stood the test of time arose, and therefore I could, if I wish associated with a political Movement today pursue that policy which I prescribe, content with purely propaganda of the written word, and

great meetings only where local organisations justify great meetings. Now, we are not going to anticipate any decision tonight, I merely say that if the decision is to form a Movement in Britain, the propaganda which I should put out would be far better than anything we had time to do before the war because time prevented it. I can see ways and means by which skill and determination can carry our propaganda to every man and woman in the country, and eventually when conditions permit, carry our faith right throughout the continent of Europe.

Everyone here has been a deep and living inspiration. I hope, I know what you feel about it, When old friends and new friends have spoken as you have tonight, and when we look at England, we are all conscious of the responsibility that rests on every one of us, a responsibility greater than we have ever known before, I think at least you know this of me, that I shall not flinch, I have always tried to serve the people of this country in the highest aspiration, in that high service alone can we fulfil the Will of God on earth. You have told me what you think my service shall be, I will go and think deeply on these things, you shall have my answer.

My friends I thank every one of you.

Sir Oswald Mosley
European



MOSLEY AT THE INAUGURAL MEETING OF UNION MOVEMENT 7TH FEBRUARY 1948

MOSLEY'S ANSWER

On Friday 28th November 1947, Mosley gave his answer. A press conference was called at 39, South Eaton Place, announcing the formation of UNION MOVEMENT. After setting out the reasons for a European Union, a lively question and answer session followed. It was explained that 51 organisations had agreed to be the nucleus of the new party that would come into being early in the New Year. The launch of UNION MOVEMENT took place on Saturday 7th February 1948 at Wilfred Street School, Westminster with over 300 delegates representing the 51 organisations that initially made up U.M.

THE LONG MARCH TO SANITY HAD BEGUN.

GREGORY MAITLAND ASSERTS COPYRIGHT TO HIS 'DECLARING FOR EUROPE' ARTICLE BOTH IN TEXT AND PHOTOGRAPHS. NO REPRODUCTION WITHOUT WRITTEN PERMISSION.

BIBLIOGRAPHY

MY ANSWER by Sir Oswald Mosley

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'Cheap Edition'

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OCTOBER 1947 Book Club Edition Paperback White Cover

Details as Above

Two Shillings and Six Pence (12.5 New Pence)



PEOPLE LINE-UP TO JOIN UNION MOVEMENT

I must give myself to this task.

My life striving in the politics of Britain made known my name and character: my voice can now reach beyond the confines of one country, because it has been heard before. The past has imposed the duty of the future:

I must do this thing because no other can.

Sir Oswald Mosley, 1947
Father of Europe A Nation

For the whole of British Union's life, the normal avenues of spreading policy were deliberately denied by the ruling power, unless of course, a story could be worked up into adverse publicity. It therefore fell upon members to be incredibly innovative in getting the message across to the people. They were equal to the task. Hiring and filling the largest halls in the country, hundreds of weekly street meetings, a dedicated number of loudspeaker vans touring the country, recordings, films and a weekly newspaper all helped to press Mosley's case.

One truly original idea was the purchase of an ex-naval motor launch, Named *Advance*; she spent her summers cruising along the south coast. Under the captaincy of William Henry (Peter) Symes O/C National Transport she would position herself off crowded beaches to deliver the Blackshirt policy via loudspeakers often backed up with shore-based members handing out leaflets. In July 1935, *Advance* attended the Royal Navy Review at Spithead. Flying the Red Ensign and Fascist flags with a full complement of uniformed Blackshirts, they saluted the King passing on the Royal yacht. Later the launch moved among the fleet exchanging greetings with other visitors.

In 1939 and change of ownership *Advance* was set to take on a momentous role that was to secure her place in naval history. We are indebted to the late Colin Dick, for this story can now be told in precise detail.

BLACKSHIRT BOAT WAS FIRST TO RESCUE BRITISH TROOPS AT DUNKIRK IN 1940

Shortly before he died, my old friend Eric Piercy asked me to set down the story of the small part we played in the rescue of the British Expeditionary Force from France in 1940 as many inaccurate versions had been told over the years.

Eric first joined Mosley in the New Party and followed him into the BUF where he was Commander of the Fascist Defence Force, which, I believe, later became known as the 'I' Squad. The purpose of this mobile formation was to race around London rescuing Blackshirt speakers from Red assailants: a task that Eric was ideally suited for by temperament and physique. He also had the distinction of being the originator of the Circle-and-Flash symbol, which served as the Movement's motif for many years.

I knew Eric from my days at Black House, the BUF National Headquarters in Chelsea, and later in the 1930s Eric became my personal secretary.

We were both fond of boating and in 1939, I decided to buy a motorised craft. Eric told me of a BUF motor boat that was surplus to requirements: it was owned by Peter Symes who used to sail it along the English Channel to deliver propaganda messages by loudspeaker to holidaymakers sunning themselves on south coast beaches.

I bought the '*Advance*' for a Fiver and although it needed a coat of paint, the engine was soon in perfect running order. We spent many weekends aboard it venturing as far from our moorings at Teddington as the

Isle of Wight and Poole Harbour. When the call went out in the spring of 1940 for small boats to help bring back troops of the beleaguered British Expeditionary Force in France, we immediately set sail for the rendezvous point at Sheerness. We became part of the first flotilla of six motorboats to reach Dunkirk and the '*Advance*' had the distinction of being the very first to take war-weary troops off the beach.

Our task was to ferry troops from the shore to the large Royal Navy vessels standing by off the coast and that afternoon we made twenty return journeys and transported around 500 men. Of course, German dive-bombers were constantly strafing us and everything else in sight that moved. One of them flew so low over us that it clipped the top of our mast clean off.

It has been reported that Eric was wounded in this action but this is incorrect: we were only hit by splinters caused by machine-gun fire hitting the ship and they did little personal damage. However, one bomb did land close by, causing the '*Advance*' to shoot up at least ten feet above the water – but fortunately, we landed the right way up!

The lowest point was when we saw one of the large Royal Navy ships, on which we had landed

some of our rescue troops, blown to pieces by a direct hit. Few on board could have survived.

By now, four boats from our original flotilla of six had been sunk and the machine gun fire and shrapnel had severely damaged the '*Advance*'. We were instructed by the Lieutenant in charge to head for home immediately. The hazardous return journey through mist and floating mines was safely completed with just a single gallon of petrol remaining by the time we made landfall.



BRITISH UNION'S MOTOR LAUNCH '*ADVANCE*' ATTENDING THE SPITHEAD REVIEW IN 1935

It has been said that the police were waiting at Dover to arrest us under Regulation 18B but this is not quite true. On our return we were given a day's recovery time whilst the '*Advance*' was patched up ready for another sortie on the Monday. In fact they came for us on the Sunday at Eric's house in Sussex whilst we were still picking the splinters out of our flesh. We were arrested in the garden in front of his wife and children as potential traitors who would be most likely to sabotage the war effort given the chance!

CONTINUED ON PAGE 11



A VIEW TOWARDS THE BRIDGE OF '*ADVANCE*'. NOTE THE LARGE BLACKSHIRT FLAG FLYING FROM THE MAST HEAD

THE BOLSHEVIK OF BEXLEYHEATH

Melita Norwood, a British master spy in the pay of Russia over four decades has died. Despite unequivocal guilt, she was never arrested, let alone brought to trial. Her treachery began in the early 1930s when she joined the innocuous sounding British Non-Ferrous Metals Research Association. Cultivating a benign, efficient persona, promotion soon followed as secretary to the managing director. In such a position, access was gained to all the firm's papers including secret documents on Britain's research into metallurgy later associated with the atomic bomb.

A left wing family background of the Co-Operative movement, the Workers Educational Association and the Independent Labour Party led her on to joining the Communist Party of Great Britain. Embracing the Russian cause and with recommendation by Andrew Rothstein (a founder member of the C.P.G.B.) she was recruited by the N.K.V.D., who knew her employers were working on nuclear research. In her privileged position she systematically photographed every file, passing on copies to her Soviet masters. Her code name 'Hola' first surfaced when the 1937 Woolwich Arsenal spy ring was exposed. Little was done at the time to track down another, known to be an active spy.

When Anglo-American relations became strained after the war, as America became convinced that leaks were occurring from the British side, the government decided to go it alone, resulting in yet more contracts being placed with her employers. Again, every single document ended up on a Moscow desk.

Because of her communist sympathisers, her blanket security clearance was cancelled in 1951. With the decryption of the 'Verona' papers in 1966, she was finally exposed. This did not stop her. She continued to gain access to sensitive files, passing on copies to her Soviet masters right up to her retirement in the early 1970s. Even then her traitorous past was kept from the public.

To gauge Norwood's importance, it is known that when, due to Stalin's purges, the number of western contacts had to be reduced she was chosen to continue against the temporary dropping of Kim Philby.

Her treachery gained her the secret award of the Order of the Red Banner and a pension. Later when yet more evidence came to light MI5 decided not to prosecute because it 'might have led to criticism for harassing an old lady'. This was backed up by Jack Straw, the then Home Secretary, who followed the same line. Incredibly, she was never even interviewed by our security service.

Without the Mitrokhin files (see Comrade 57) together with the brilliant research of Dr Christopher Andrews she would never have been publicly unmasked. Yet another example of the self elected liberal P.C. lobby that has gained such an insidious grip on the affairs of this country and without doubt can be blamed for a great deal of our current woes.

KENT-WOLKOFF AFFAIR CONTINUED FROM PAGE 4

Edmund Ironside who also wanted a negotiated peace with Germany. And although Bryan Clough does not go so far himself, it is surely hard to believe that Liddell and Knight could have resisted the chance to suggest to Anderson that Ramsay must have briefed Mosley on the contents of the secret Churchill-Roosevelt correspondence - a story that could appear in British Union's 'Action' any day unless they were allowed to act. Vernon Kell, the Director-General of MI5, then used contacts in the Government close to Churchill to ensure that Anderson was leaned on from above.

ANDERSON CAVES IN

Either way, the pressure on Anderson was enough - 48 hours

after Ramsay's arrest he agreed for "about 30" of the leaders of British Union to be interned "to cripple the movement". Within a year, MI5 saw that the "30" grew to over 1,000 British men and women imprisoned without charge or trial under Regulation 18B.

Mosley's principled stand for "Peace with Honour, British Empire Intact and British People Safe" was lost - and Hitler's numerous overtures to the British Government for peace negotiations, confirmed during Goering's interrogation after the War (2), went unanswered.

60-MILLION LIVES LOST

So began the War that could have been avoided. A war that cost the lives of 60-million Europeans - including 366,365 Britons.

Long after the Second World War ended, it is known that Mosley and Lady Diana entertained Maxwell Knight

(retired from MI5 and by then a TV and radio presenter for 'Woman's Hour' and naturalist programmes for children) to tea at their French home outside Paris. Oh, to have been a fly on the wall at that one. Whatever else, Mosley was clearly a forgiving soul.

Gordon Beckwell

- (1) National Archives ref: CAB120/691
- (2) National Archives ref: AIR20/8693

State Secrets - The Kent-Wolkoff Affair.
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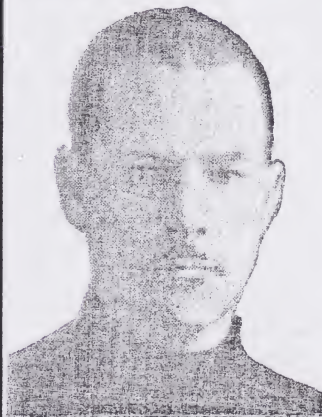
WANTED

MOSLEY MEMORBILLIA 1896-1980

- BOOKS
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- BANNERS
- DRUMS
- UNIFORMS
- BUTTONS
- FLAGS
- TRUMPETS
- EMBLEMATIC JEWELLERY
- DIARIES
- NEWSPAPERS
- PHOTOGRAPHS
- STANDARDS

Collector wishes to purchase anything connected to the life of Sir Oswald Mosley. Please write in confidence to:
B.M. Talon. London. WC1N 3XX.

DUNKIRK CONTINUED.
FROM PAGE 10



ERIC PIERCY

It has to be said that the Regulation 18B Advisory Committee were much impressed by the story of our service at Dunkirk and even the normally hard-line M15 did not object when our release from Internment was recommended after about 90 days in prison.

Shortly after, we received an official certificate recording our actions aboard the 'Advance' and helping with the rescue of the BEF at Dunkirk - plus a cheque for £10 each!

What Eric and I did on that day was no more and no less than hundreds of other small boat owners.

But our internment demonstrates the corrupt nature of a perfidious British Government that labelled as traitors and fifth-columnists patriotic men and women who would make any sacrifice to defend the country that they loved.

'Advance' was never listed with Lloyds Register so we do not know the finer details of this historic motor launch. It has now emerged that she was so badly damaged on her return she needed to be beached to save her from sinking. After much needed repairs 'Advance' made another trip to Dunkirk on the 2nd June under the command of S/Lt P. Snow returning to Ramsgate on the 3rd June. Just over a year later, on the 23rd June 1941, she was lost to fire.

As one of the 'Little Ships' associated with 'The Miracle of Dunkirk' its place in National and Blackshirt history is assured.

I8B: ONE MAN'S STORY

By Guy Mansell

Claude F P Duvivier was born in Spa, Belgium in 1902. He witnessed at first hand the bloody fighting over his native land during the First World War. Like so many others of his generation, he was revolted by such a catastrophe and was determined to stop a second conflict. By the 1930s he had settled in this country and had taken up farming in the West country. Because of his youthful experiences, he could see sooner than most the drift by design towards a second war. Judging British Union as the one organisation able to stop such a conflict, he joined and rose to become District Leader of Exmouth. A man of exceptional courage, ability and principle he was caught up in the 5th Column hysteria of 1940, and as a result, was to serve one of the longest terms of incarceration under Regulation 18B.

The pattern of events started with an exchange of letters. Duvivier's friend William Crowle, member of B.Us Devonport branch wrote to his friend on the 1st January 1940.

Dear D.V. (Claude Duvivier)

Many thanks for your letter. I'm much better now and shall soon be leaving hospital. What I'm chiefly writing to you about is to ask you if you would help me provide a story for 'Action' (the weekly B.U.F. newspaper) as you are better known there than I am. It mainly concerns Winston Churchill and I believe it would provide a real "scoop" for 'Action'. Ask them to send down a man to see me if possible, so that I can give him the story direct, only not immediately as I still have a few details to collect. By the way do you know that the Kelly is in port with a hole in her side and 26 dead on board, she was out in the North Sea, also the Vanquisher and Vindictive are damaged, what about being told the truth now eh?

Yours etc. W. Crowle

Duvivier sent on Crowle's letter to Action's editor with a covering note.

6th January 1940

Dear Mr Thomson,

We've just got rid of Horey-Boloney (Hore-Belisha) having resigned his post of Secretary for War now how about a smack at "Winnie the Boo?" (ref made to Winston Churchill at Earl's Court July 1939, who at that time was first Lord of the Admiralty) I'm enclosing this letter from my friend Crowle so that you may read it for yourself. I can vouch for its authenticity; having known and corresponded with him for some time now, also our C.P.O. could vouch for him, he is one of our keenest members in the Plymouth district.

Yours

D.V.

By this time all inward going mail to British Union Headquarters was being

routinely monitored by MI5.

What finer excuse to arrest two Blackshirts (who had no previous convictions) by alleging this correspondence was 'of value to the enemy'.

On 30th January 1940 both men appeared at Exeter Police Court charged under the emergency powers (Defence) Regulations of being in possession of a document that would directly or indirectly be useful to an enemy. Subsequently the court heard evidence in camera. On reconvening in public session both men changed their plea to 'guilty' to the charges. Sentence of six months imprisonment with hard labour was passed.

THE FUTILITY OF WAR

In mounting his defence, Duvivier, recalled living through the whole period of the 1914-18 war in Belgium and witnessed the futile results of that colossal upheaval. 'As soon as I saw my opportunity later on I was determined to do all I could to assist in any cause that was out for peace and friendship, realising only too well that another war between Britain and Germany would prove disastrous for all concerned'.

In subsequently meeting Crowle in prison he was told that the news about the ships was common knowledge throughout Plymouth because anybody in the Dock area could see them. But as this happened to be recorded in a letter, and the correspondence was evidently being pried into by "MI5", it constituted "a document of value to the enemy" and provided the authorities with a reasonable excuse for having both put out of the way.

On the subject of this prying into private correspondence, he

remembered whilst in Exeter prison reading a copy of the prisoner's "Weekly News Sheet", an account of a speech made by Lord Halifax in which he said: "In this great democracy of ours, there will be no prying into peoples correspondence and telephone wires. If that was not slightly ironic to say the least, it certainly struck him as being hypocritical.

In view of the above, he had to admit that it was foolish to have preceded with the matter in the way that he did, namely, enclosing Crowle's letter in a sealed envelope addressed to A. Raven-Thomson Esq., c/o 'Action'.

ACTIONS IN THE CAUSE OF PEACE

During his long imprisonment he wrote ... 'On joining the B.U. a revolutionary organisation, I had no axe to grind, no personal grudge against anybody or anything in particular, I was not one of the down-and-outs or persecuted in business, except that I really did sympathise with my fellow-farmers for the bad treatments they were getting from successive Tory and so-called "National" Governments; I had always more or less had what I wanted, led a pleasant way of life, and was never so happy domestically as when I settled down with an ideal life-partner and we started rearing a little family. Therefore, on joining the B.U. whose motto was "Britain-First", my motives were entirely patriotic, altruistic and, in the cause of peace. On making a careful study of the B.U. policy, I became convinced that not only was Sir O. Mosley an idealist and a realist after my own liking, but that the National-Socialist policy such as advocated by B.U. in "Tomorrow We Live" i.e. by British men, with British methods, for British people, could only but benefit



CLAUDE DUVIVIER

the whole British Commonwealth in general.

With these facts in mind then, and as the years sped by it became more and more obvious that we were drifting towards war, my actions and writings would, I quite agree, demand some elucidation by those who still do not understand the real causes of this war and the British Union ideology. Having acquainted myself with what I firmly believed to be the truth behind the whole ghastly business I became almost a fanatic. I regarded it as my duty towards my fellow-creatures to impart to them this knowledge, and to warn them of the impending dangers. There are many people on this Britain of ours who were fully aware of the truth, but who for various reasons, dared not open their mouths. (Some might say that I at any rate had nothing to lose; on the contrary, by landing myself in prison and detention I have jeopardised the whole of my family life, the company of my dear wife and children which I value more than anything in this world.) As time went on the Press agitation against Germany grew in intensity, and the people were duly taken in by this, it was the daily drip-drip of journalistic poison that did the trick. The dogs of war were barking, "Cry Havoc" Only Mosley stood out, like a solid rock amidst the oceans, for peace and sanity. In my view then, every action taken by Germany to wipe out the injustices of the Versailles Treaty and to consolidate her frontiers and armed forces were fully justified, in the sense that had we been placed in a similar position, we would have done likewise, or been unworthy of the name of Britons.

For me, and for many others who knew the real issues of this conflict, it was not now a cause of "my country right or wrong", how could it be? Were not the British people duped into this war in the belief that they were going to the help of Poland? Yet on that very morrow of that declaration of war on Germany Chamberlain did proclaim, and others after him have reiterated throughout, that this is a war for "the destruction of Nazism", i.e. National-Socialism in other words, an ideological war. Wretched Poland had merely been encouraged by Britain to adopt an increasingly hostile attitude towards Germany so that the "Corridor" problem would provide the powder-barrel. Hence the bitterness and the hatred engendered by this conflict.

A CHANGE OF VENUE

Having served their sentence, both defendants were not released but caught under Regulation 18B. A dreary round of prisons ensued finally landing at Douglas, Isle of Man on 12th June 1941. Over the next three years Claude Duvivier had plenty of time to reflect on his actions and the law that ensnared him.

He wrote: "We are told that the purpose of Regulation 18B is to ensure Public Safety" and that: "Detention under 18B is for custodial purposes only and not intended to be punitive". In other words we are merely being held on suspicion of what we might do. At the time when mass detentions were taking place in May, June and July 1940, (The "Fifth Column") Sir John Anderson, then Home Secretary made the following statement to the press. "This action has not been taken because of the opinions held or expressed by these people or because of their propaganda activities, but because the organisations of which they are leading members might be used in the execution of acts prejudicial to the security of the State".

Previous to appearing before the Advisory Board Duvivier was handed an indictment sheet on which were detailed the "particulars" which prompted the Home Secretary "to have reasonable cause to believe" that you would have been a danger to Public Security had you been allowed to remain at large. On the indictment he was accused of acts prejudicial to the public safety.

"In January 1940 you procured information which included

details of damage to and movements of H.M. ships and prepared to forward this information to the Editor of "Action" a publication of the organisation known as British Union, of which you were a member".

Duvivier's response was forthright: "You say by this that I am not only held for an "offence" for which I officially did six months hard labour but in reality did 12 months all told in various prisons and had there been any Justice should have been released on completion of sentence".

Having failed the first hearing he was later granted a second appeal for release on 15th January 1942. "I personally did not entertain much hope, but I thought I would have a good try, especially as Crowle had been successful. I did so merely because I am fonder of my wife and children, than I was of kicking my heels in an Internment Camp, one only had to "spin 'em a yarn", "promise to be a good boy" and out you went. But no! the evidence against me is too patent, and in writing. You cannot deny what you have written so easily as you could the spoken word, and my result, of course a foregone conclusion was "Further detained"

Summing up on my own Committee, Mr Stolt was good enough to say, and I am very grateful to him for it, that: "**In effect Mr Duvivier you were not really anti-British, but just anti-Government**" And that I'm sure that is fair enough and as near to the truth as could be.

I was anti-Government primarily, because striving for Peace and friendship was Germany was entirely in the interests of my fellow creatures I saw the British Government increasingly becoming a war-government, not in the interests of the British people but in the interests of International-Finance.

In contrast, if we had stuck to a policy of "Minding Britain's Business", i.e. the Empire's business, we would not to-day be witnessing the sorry spectacle of what has occurred and is still occurring.

Claude Duvivier was finally released on 26th July 1944 one of the longest serving detainees of the infamous 18B law. He returned to his beloved family and once again took up farming. His spirit still strong, he often wrote and got published, letters to the papers pointing out the consequences of the war.

THE FIGHT GOES ON

Sir, - It began in September 1939, when Russia halved Poland with Nazi Germany. The same year, Finland was attacked and the Finnish frontier pushed back. In June 1940, the Rumanian frontier suffered the same fate. In August, the Baltic States of Estonia, Latvia and Lithuania were incorporated in the Soviet Union.

In June 1942, the Germans attacked Russia and flooded 800 miles eastward as far as Stalingrad.

Then in 1943 the tide turned again and Russia began to move westward once more.

Now in 1947, either by setting up satellite Governments or plain military occupation, Russia's political frontiers stand west of the Elbe and the Danube.

Beyond these rivers Soviet pressure is exerted upon Italy and Greece in the west and on Turkey and Persia in the south. In the Far East, the Chinese have also felt the encroaching weight of the largest State of the world.

In all countries a well organised and disciplined Communist party stands ready to carry out the orders of the Communist Party Supreme Command, which has its headquarters in Moscow.

Sir, - "they brought this disaster upon themselves and they must face the consequences". It is to me incomprehensible that a man like Field-Marshal Montgomery could have said such a thing without his tongue in his cheek. What sort of effect does he suppose that statement will have on the German people? He claims to be a man who likes to face facts, then with all due respects to the venerable Field Marshal, I should like to remind him and others of a few undeniable facts that for reasons of expediency no doubt, it is fashionable just how to ignore. At the outset it was Britain who declared war on Germany thereby unnecessarily spreading the war to Northern and Western Europe with the dire consequences that we are now all lamenting, and in its final stages it was the Allied day and night total bombing which reduced German cities and their inhabitants to their present state of "threatening disease", coupled with the openly admitted starvation blockade of the Continent of Europe which in turn was visited on the unfortunate inmates of the Belsens and Buchenwalds. This is how the German "man in the street" knows facts, which, I repeat, are undeniable. Yet Germany sought nothing but the hand of friendship from this country.

Sir, - Are we prepared to sacrifice all, to do all, not that Britain may be great, but that Soviet Russia, already great may be even greater? That a gigantic sprawling Soviet shall dominate Europe and Asia from Gibraltar to Vladivostok, bringing in its wake a "slavery worse than death" - as Mr Churchill describes it - to friend and foe alike. For that, in short is the issue before us.

All ideals have now gone by the board, and the sole arbiter of our people's destinies is force - brute and mechanized force.

Let us look a stark, staring fact in the face; if the Soviets are permitted to bind Europe to their will, Britain's fate is sealed.

Let us not forget, however, that much of our great achievements in the past have been due to that unique quality of the Englishman - the hard head and the soft heart. What a tragedy if these adjectives were in our generation to be transposed! For depend upon it

Sir, - You ask "What lies behind the obstructive policy of Mr. Molotov?"

I suggest the answer is to gain delay for the purpose of consolidating Russia's recently-acquired territories such as Poland, Roumania, Bulgaria, &c., the acquisition being camouflaged under the guise of fostering democratic Republics. Only very Simple Simons in this country are now deceived by such make-believe.

Russia, as Earl Russell has stated, is pursuing an old Imperialistic policy, which must be at the expense of some other Imperial nation. Germany, Russia's age old rival, has been knocked out, so the field is left free.

It bodes no good to this country as we will all discover some-day, when we have to say to Russia: "Stop or -"

unconditional surrender enforced on Germany today will mean unconditional surrender of another country tomorrow - that of Great Britain to the Euro-Asian-Soviet.

Sir, - International finance will probably consider that it has had a good war; some of us avowed before the war started that one of its main objects would be aggrandisement of the United States and Soviet Russia at the expense of the British Empire.

Claude Duvivier a convinced Mosleyite died on 6th October 1978 aged 76 years. Once again, Comrade is proud to highlight a singular story of courage and honesty from the hundreds of thousands who followed Mosley.

DR ROBERT FORGAN: DEPUTY LEADER OF THE BRITISH UNION 1932-1934

By Guy Mansell

A PACKED AUDIENCE LISTENS TO THE CASE FOR THE NEW PARTY



MOSLEY SPEAKING AT A NEW PARTY OUTDOOR MEETING. DR FORGAN CAN BE SEEN ON MOSLEY'S RIGHT

walked straight through the middle of the protestors without mishap, remarking "This is the crowd which has prevented anything being done in England since the war".

Once the disastrous General Election results were known, Mosley knew the days of the New Party were numbered. "Smother tactics led to our inevitable defeat, we had to reform not just policy but organisation to meet an entirely new situation". In dissolving the New Party but retaining its Youth Section, Mosley wrote its epitaph and emphasised his determination;

"Better the great adventure, better the great attempt for England's sake, better defeat, better far the end of that trivial thing called a political career, ...we shall win; or at least fall upon our shields"

REVOLUTIONARY THINKING

In January 1932, in the company of Harold Nicholson he went to Italy to study the concept of a

government that was getting things done. He met Mussolini and became convinced the way forward was to adapt what he saw to take on the forces of 'do little'. At this point, Forgan was sent to visit the existing rightist political groups, with a view to uniting under one banner. In the case of Arnold Leese, the answer was rounded abuse. "Mosley was nothing more than a Kosher Fascist, Conservatism with knobs on". The increasingly alcoholic Rotha Linton-Orman turned down the idea but a disillusioned membership simply resigned and went over to Mosley, the greatest 'capture' being Neil Francis Hawkins who was later to become a major figure in the movement. The final agreed title was **The British Union of Fascists** genuinely reflecting the membership if not organisation.

BECOMING A MAJOR FORCE

The work of forming a political party is enormous. Forgan's designation as **Deputy Leader and Director of Organisation**

was crucial, he certainly rose to the challenge and succeeded. Apart from the separate arms of Defence and Publications the entire structure flowed out from his office, eighteen hour days were not uncommon. Fledgling departments were nurtured, grown and hived off into fully functioning entities. Registry, Research, London Command, F.U.B.W., Legal, Foreign Relations, Medical, Political,

Gilmour, a candidate in the New Party General Election who followed Mosley into B.U. Apart from office work, Forgan was deputed to meet 'names' in order to try to persuade them of the rightfulness of Mosley's policies and hopefully solicit funds. He twice went to Italy and met with Mussolini handing him, on one occasion, a signed and dedicated copy of Mosley's book, *The Greater Britain*.



DR FORGAN AND SIR OSWALD AT THE SECOND ANNIVERSARY DINNER OF THE FOUNDING OF BRITISH UNION. WITHIN DAYS, FORGAN HAD RESIGNED ON THE GROUNDS OF ILL HEALTH

DR. ROBERT FORGAN

Ill Health Causes Retirement

It is with great regret that we announce Dr. Forgan's resignation from the position of second in command of the British Union of Fascists, rendered necessary by the state of his health. The serious illness through which he passed three years ago left permanent impairment; and the heavy burden of work which devolved on his shoulders last winter did not improve his condition. It was hoped, with the strain relieved to some extent by the re-arrangement of duties at National Headquarters in the spring, that he might be enabled to continue his work as Deputy-Leader, a position in which his tact and good humour won many friends both for the Movement and for himself. That expectation has, unfortunately, not been realised.

Into his retirement from active work in the B.U.F. Dr. Forgan will take with him heartiest good wishes for his complete restoration to health, and the hope that he may live to see the triumph of the Movement which he did so much to build and direct in its early days.

HEADLINE IN BLACKSHIRT ANNOUNCING DR FORGAN'S RETIREMENT

even Catering was initiated by Forgan. A snapshot of the Research Department's dedication illustrates the professionalism that ran through the organisation. All daily and weekly national newspapers were read, membership sent in a continuous flow of stories from the provincial press. Translators were engaged to read the world's press. Speaker's notes were regularly issued. The chosen head of the department was William

A CHANGE OF DIRECTION

Two years after British Union's founding and with many departments working at capacity thanks to his foresight and energy he resigned on grounds of ill health. He was never again to enter politics. Bizarrely some time after leaving B.U. he visited the offices of the Jewish Board of Deputies and spoke with Messrs Laski and Blonstein presumably in order to secure a medical position, this approach came to nothing. Not wishing to go into general practice, he later became a corporate medical adviser. After the war he applied to rejoin the Labour Party but was turned down. He died on January 8th 1976.

Forgan was a key figure in the early days of Mosley's campaign to build a better Britain. Contrary to current thinking he is known to have said that Cynthia Mosley was fully committed to British Union and would have made her mark had she lived. This does hold credence, as he was the one person who over four years had worked most closely with her.

At British Union's founding meeting in Trafalgar Square on the 15th October 1932 this self-effacing kindly man preferred to listen to Mosley from the audience instead of taking his rightful place among the Blackshirted members on the plinth. With such humility and dedication a hallmark of so many, Mosley should have won.



JUST GOOD FRIENDS. DR FORGAN WITH CYNTHIA MOSLEY DURING LABOUR PARTY DAYS

A BLACKSHIRT IN NORMANDY

Following the much appreciated 'How the B.U.F. came to Geordieland', the editor of Comrade suggested to D Day paratrooper Robert Richards that he may like to write about his 6th June 1944 drop into Normandy. Despite initial reluctance, he finally agreed. In this concluding article, we follow his war behind enemy lines. It is fitting to remind readers that while Robert Richards survived to tell how it really was, Captain Charles Greenwood of the 8th Btn Parachute Regiment, another Blackshirt, barely survived 24 hours as one of the first shock troops in the invasion of fortress Europe.

D DAY + ONE

Those of us who were fortunate enough to have survived the 1.00am, night-drop on the 6th June, and 36 hours of being mortar bombed and shelled with very little respite, felt satisfied with our performance – to date.

Our Platoon strength was now about 17 out of 33 who had parachuted into blackness, 36 hours previously. A measure-of-time in the circumstances, which seemed to me without reality.

In the ensuing days Robert Richards became a casualty thankfully still able to walk from a front line dressing station back to a field hospital. With typical modelsty it is not recorded how or where he was wounded.

Frankly, my story isn't exceptional. No 'Rambo' stuff, no mighty warrior, etc... Just a good performance as part of a highly (and expensively) trained combat team. On stage from 6th to 13th June; then making a walk-off exit from the battlefield. Admittedly the 'shank's-pony' was over a mile and half during which I came across Lovat's Commando's well dug-in by the roadside. They had had me under observation for over 5 minutes, mistaking me for a Panzer grenadier (the British paratroopers' battle costume had, at a distance, a similarity). They challenged me at about 30-40 yards, with a code-word.

After a brief exchange I discovered that their immediate concern was food! Their role was that of 'out-post watch', and they were convinced that their Q.M. had forgotten them. Fortunately I was familiar with their surroundings which happened to be where my Platoon had first rendezvoused after the 'drop' on the 6th, also where the first advance glider troops had come in at 3.00am. Some of those gliders, alongside the road-hedge, I knew had seven-day ration packs inside them. This information I passed on. Leaving one on watch, the other accompanied me, and sure enough the first glider we entered was an 'Aladdin's-cave' to a hungry man!

Well, he cursed and swore, rushed out of the glider stuck his head through the hedge and called to his mate and put him, in a colourful-way, in the picture. Saying to me, very expressively,

that they had been manning that slit-trench for about 24 hours without food of any kind having been got to them – now all this and only ten yards away.

Leaving the two troopers of Lovat's Commando happily stuffing themselves, I set off on the remaining ½ mile to the Divisional Aid Post.

Thereafter it was just a matter of a quick examination, then hurriedly squeezed into an ambulance containing two stretcher casualties, and off on a very bumpy journey, first crossing the 'two Bridges', to a Field Hospital near the British Landing Beach, Arromanches.

A BLIGHTY ONE

The hospital ward comprised: stretcher beds with one blanket (walking casualties); we were relieved of our webbing battle equipment having first being asked if we were carrying grenades and or small mortar bombs, etc ... We were told to retain personal small-arms and one clip of ammunition and told to ensure that it was unloaded; nevertheless every weapon was checked to ensure that our weapon was unloaded during the first few minutes of arrival and, at the same time another orderly was attaching a large envelope-label to the button-hole of the breast-pocket of our uniform-blouse. Then this was followed up with the distribution of a mug and an unopened can. 'If you don't know how to use that can don't do anything!, we'll show you' This was an emphatic instruction: 'Don't do anything!' Whilst all this was happening we were also being told: 'You can remove your boots, but nothing else!'. This sounded the most 'wonderful' invitation I had ever heard!! 'I could actually take my boots OFF'. They had last been off my feet on the night of 4th June!! – Bliss.

The fuss about the can was because they were self-heating and apparently could easily scald if not operated with care. Nothing very complicated really but, with battle-conditioned patients, common sense was sometimes unreliable; the problem of war-wounds was quite enough without being aggravated by accidents in hospital.

'Why?', came a question: 'Why keep our arms and ammo?' The answer came brusque and

laconic: 'You're all still in a 'battle-zone', you could be called upon to fight at a moment's notice'. A hush fell; 'Try and get some sleep – Goodnight!'. In moments, some conversation restarted, but already the sounds of heavy sleep were beginning to dominate. Even the fringes of nearby long-range artillery and the consequent earth vibration had no effect. Tired men, nay, exhausted men. Not one of whom had not fallen asleep without the thought in their minds about how their comrades they had left behind were faring – still with their boots – ON.

Came dawn and we were roused; instructed to be ready to move when called. After getting my boots on, I went looking for a wash and a shave. This would be my third shave since 5th June – my last shave was at the bottom of a slit-trench using the last dregs of cold tea. Mortaring had recommenced before finishing the shave, nevertheless, the shave was completed and the razor-blade wiped. (The Paratrooper prided himself upon always, yes, always, being properly shaved – battle or no battle! The only reason we did not polish our boots was because the glint may draw sniper-fire).

Following a medical check whilst stripped to the waist and washing myself, my label was duly marked by a medical Sgt., acting on the M.O.'s instructions. Asking the Sgt. Orderly what was to happen next, he said, 'we'll call you when the transport is ready to take you to the Beach – don't forget to take your arms with you'. Eventually the call came, the transport was a small utility-truck. In a few minutes we arrived at the Beach and first handed-in our arms and ammo. For the first time I experienced quite a strong and strange reaction!, to be without arms!? At last it struck me: I was really 'hors-de combat'! Yet, still on my feet! It was hard to accept emotionally.

We were ferried out to the U.S. Hospital Ship lying off-shore. The stretcher-borne casualties were streaming-out, load after load. In a very short time the ship was underway. The rapidity of the loading and getting underway forced a realisation that it was not the thought of getting the wounded back to the U.K., for

treatment etc., but the necessity for the Ship to get back and reload. The battlefield clearance of casualties was a high priority. All to do with morale. As England hove into sight I recalled the 6th Airborne Division slogan for the Normandy Airborne Assault was 'Go-to-it' something that rather optimises my approach is to life in general.

POSRIPT

Being on of Mosley's earliest Blackshirts in the North East, Robert Richards remained convinced of the leader's cause. In the immediate post-war period he initiated the Salisbury Modern Book Club, one of the organisations that ultimately merged into the founding of Union Movement. Later. On joining the Government Service, he reluctantly resigned U.M. membership. After service in the Dominions, he returned to his native North East. He holds the T.A. and C.D. Corps long service medals and in 1953 was presented with the Queens Coronation medal for voluntary service during the North Devon and North East coast flood disasters.

A man of the greatest integrity who was prepared to stand by his beliefs in the face of tremendous odds.

Yet again, it is possible to salute a brave Mosley man who fought politically to stop the Brothers' War but was prepared to take up arms on behalf of his country once war was declared and later embraced the doctrine of a United Europe.

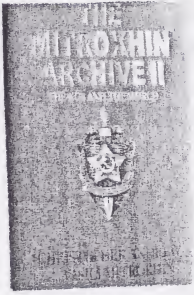
European Socialism Automation Problem and Solution Wagner and Shaw

All three articles written by Sir Oswald Mosley for The European – the journal of opposition, were then issued as booklets.

Friends of Mosley can offer these as one lot £5.00 post-free. Please make cheques payable to F.O.M. and send to: B.C.M./F.O.M. London. WC1N 3XX.

Note: These are originals not later and inferior reproductions!

BOOK REVIEWS



In March 1992, a seventy year old man walked into the British Embassy in one of the newly free Baltic States and asked to speak to

'someone in authority'. The English diplomat he met was handed a number of documents said to be copies made from secret Kremlin files. Over a cup of English tea, the retired KGB officer convinced the diplomat that his haul was genuine. A month later he returned with over two thousand closely typed pages of highly compromising information. After scrutiny by top MI6 experts arrangements were made for the man and his family to be exfiltrated to the West together with six trunk loads of documents.

This was to be the greatest feat of counter espionage ever known. Vasili Nikitich Mitrokhin, a Russian career 'diplomat' used as cover for spying with service in numerous overseas postings had been recalled to Moscow to join the First Chief (Foreign Intelligence) Directorate. His exposure to the innermost workings of the party often made his own political views side with the high profile dissidents of the time, such as Solzhenitsyn, Bulgakov and Pasternak. This lead him to question foreign policy and the way facts were censored by the time they got, if ever, into the public domain. As a 'loner' his increasing disillusionment never seeped out. Later, promotion meant he was in charge of moving the entire secret State Archive housed in the Lubyanka to new customised headquarters at Yasnovo a few miles outside Moscow. Over a period of twelve years Mitrokhin had a unique overview of the States innermost secrets from 1917 to current times. A growing realisation of how the nation was being duped, he decided to make selective and detailed notes of all the documents that daily passed across his desk. Needless to say it took a man of iron will and enormous courage to fully understand the risk he was taking. One slip and a dank, dark cellar with a single bullet to the back of the neck would, undoubtedly been his fate. He did his job so well that Vladimir Kryuchkov the Head of Foreign Intelligence complemented him on his work.

Dear Vasili Nikitich, The collective's employees wish you a very happy 60th birthday. You devoted 40 years of your life to the state security service and for 35 years you were a member of our glorious Communist Party. In the glorious ranks of the Soviet Chekists and in advancing its work, you devoted all of your strength, knowledge and energy to serving our Socialist Motherland.

In the discharge of your responsibilities, you received Government decorations and were an inspiration to the head of and the Committee for State Security.

Dear Vasili Nikitich, today, on the day of your jubilee, please accept our heartfelt good wishes of health, happiness and also of success in your work in the future for the sake of our motherland.

Safely on Great Britain the wish to publish his papers was realised in 1999. When in association with the leading intelligence expert Dr Christopher Andrew **The Mitrokhin Archive The KGB in Europe and the West** was published.

The book caused a sensation. Earlier, in December 1996, a German magazine reported a rumour that A KGB officer had defected to Britain with 'the names of hundreds of spies' immediately a Russian spokesman replied that this was impossible. A couple of agents perhaps, but never hundreds, that was impossible. In fact, Mitrokhin exposed Thousands of Soviet agents around the globe. In gratitude, the British Intelligence Security Committee wrote a unanimous report that included the passage:

The committee believes that he is a man of remarkable commitment and courage, who risked imprisonment or death in his determination that the truth should be told about the real nature of the KGB and their activities, which he believed were betraying the interests of his own country and people. He succeeded in this, and we wish to record formally our admiration for his achievement.

For too long, we have been waiting for the second volume, **The Mitrokhin Archive II the KGB and the World** has now been published, this book covers Russian policy in Africa, Asia and South America.

The 676 pages teem with information.

One astonishing fact to emerge was the faith the Kremlin placed in the Third World. It was

thought it held the key to winning the cold war.

We learn what the Russians really thought of the much lionised Salvador Allende.

The covert operations in Idrá Ghandi's India.

The plot to break Rudolf Nureyev's leg or as succinctly put 'lessening his professional skills'.

Afghanistan in war and defeat, an interesting read as an area remaining in the news.

Mitrokhin died on 23rd January 2004. His wish had been fulfilled. Up to the day of his passing he had been working on the second book proofs.

This country and the free world owe him greatest debt for confirming the true face of Soviet power.

At the very least, a statue should be erected in his honour, preferably in sight of the Parliament of Westminster, if only as a constant reminder to feckless 'Parliamentarians' that truth will out.

Often from the most unexpected sources.

G.H.

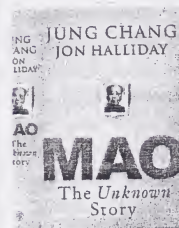
The Mitrokhin Archive II: the KGB and the world.

Christopher Andrew and Vasili Mitrokhin

Published by Allen Lane

ISBN: 0-713-99359-6

£30.00



"I feel Very ill. Call the doctors". The momentous last words of Mao Tse-tung A.K.A. The Great Helmsman of China.

After a lifetime of tyranny, the all-powerful 82 year old head of state finally succumbed on the 9th September 1976. Surprisingly thirty years on and despite his well documented crimes, Mao is still revered, with daily queues in Tiananmen Square lining up to view his corpse.

The Gang of Four, Power comes from the barrel of a gun, The Great Leap Forward, The Little Red Book, Let a Hundred Flowers Bloom, all come to mind when thinking about a man who controlled over a quarter of the world's population. For the first time this 814-page book breaks the taboo of seeing Mao as anything other than an omnipotent being. The authors, Jung Chang and Jon Halliday have bravely, but perhaps, with some tacit approval of China's current libertarian rulers, spent ten years travelling the world meeting people who at some time in their lives crossed Mao's life —

and survived. Amazingly, the authors were allowed into China to speak to many of Mao's inner circle who spoke on record for the first time about such a sensitive subject. The result is devastating in the condemnation of Mao's life. The myth of the long march, welcoming the Japanese invasion of China, the relationship with Stalin, all are minutely examined and the discovery that by the age of 24, Mao had rid himself of any moral conscience. He was a man who cared nothing for his family or closest political comrades or feeling responsibility or guilt for the deaths of 70 million by execution or famine.

Just one revelation from hundreds illustrates the cruelty of the man. In May 1972 the urbane Premier Chou En-lai was diagnosed with Cancer. This information, on the orders of Mao, was kept from Chou together with the fact that an urgent operation was needed. Why? The Great Helmsman schemed to ensure Chou did not

survive him. Two years later, the delayed operation was performed but because of the delay, there was only one outcome. Chou died on 8th January 1976. The plan had worked.

How do you hold a nation of multi-time zones and languages together? This is perhaps why the present leadership with its headlong and successful rush into capitalism, still evokes the memory of the old tyrant to instil a form of mass obedience.

This book cannot be more highly recommended, if only to arm the reader with enough information to metaphorically poke a finger in the eye with facts, facts, facts, to those fellow travellers who for years marched around this country to the strains of The Red Flag or The East is Red.

READ IT.

Mao: the untold story.

Jung Chang and Jon Halliday.

Published by Jonathan Cape

ISBN: 0-224-071262

£25.00



Just when it was thought the last word had been written about William Joyce, yet another book is published, with a

rumoured further academic tome yet to come. How much more can be turned into hard-backed editions about a man who, without the notoriety of broadcasting from Germany in wartime and paying the ultimate price, would scarcely merit a footnote in history.

Joyce was no fool. A first in English from London University, postgraduate studies in Philosophy and Psychology. Fluent in French and German who for relaxation swapped postcards in Latin with his friend Angus Macnab. His lifelong fault line was an ever growing hatred of Jews dating back to his teenage years as a member of Rotha Linton-Orman's British Fascisti. This spiralled disproportionately into his later role as Director of Research and Area Administrator for the British Union. The Mosley line of blaming Jews for what they did and not for what they were was too soft for Joyce.

In 1937 a cash crisis within British Union had to be addressed with over 80% of staff needing to be made redundant, Joyce by then was becoming extreme in his pro-German views took his dismissal very hard. He stormed off to launch a rival political party backed by Alec Scrimgeour, a retired stockbroker who had earlier tried to suborn Mosley into taking a stronger view on the Jewish question that had been flatly rejected. The emergent National Socialist League issued a few leaflets, designed a badge, held a few street corner meetings and promptly faded away. Matters were not helped by the death, the same year, of his financial backer.

With the inevitability of war drawing closer and a tip-off from his MI5 handler warning him of imminent arrest (he was in the pay of the British Secret Service) a decision had to be made, flee to Ireland or Germany. His opting for the Fatherland sealed his long-term fate.

On a technical point, Joyce was not guilty of High Treason, having been born in New York. A blood-lusting executive conveniently ignored the fact and Joyce offered little defence at his trial, which brings us to the premise of Farndale's book. Did Joyce do a deal to save his equally guilty wife from the noose? No firm evidence is offered but it may well be true. Margaret, after being shuffled around a number of European internment camps, quietly and without Government objection returned to this country, remarried and died an alcoholic in 1972.

This 'Meticulously Researched' biography regrettably descends on occasions into crass language and false assumptions. Why 'Mosley's Goons' Action newspaper was founded in 1936, not 1933. Mosley being unable to visit Germany in August 1933

because he was writing The Greater Britain. It was published on 1st October 1932. The photograph pointing out Joyce on the same trip is incorrect. The featured man is Capt. John Holliman.

A warning to female members by Maud, Lady Mosley (Mosley's mother) to be aware of predatory high officials within the Movement turns into a side swipe at her adored son.

Carrying on the sexual innuendo the unsubstantial claims against Neil Francis-Hawkins are given greater prominence than ever seen in print.

"A flamboyant homosexual" "The Black House ... A haven for gay men" ... "Surrounded himself with admiring young fellow travellers". Farndale then borrows from other authors writing about the German model to press his case. Even dear old Sylvia Plath is roped into the argument.

A reality check comes with reference to a long serving member, who as a very young man was an activist in those Black House days. He unequivocally says that if these allegations had a grain of truth Eric Piercy would not have tolerated any such behaviour and with his position as Officer Commanding National Defence

Force Control would have shown Francis-Hawkins the door.

To the unknowing, who will be the majority of readers these 'facts' perpetuate into history. The most extraordinary allegation is to suggest that Joyce was the Deputy Leader of the party and might well have taken over had Mosley fallen. He never was and never would have been.

If one bandies around the word 'definitive' save your money and stay with Mary Kenny's recently published, reprinted and much praised *GERMANY CALLING*.

F.B.

HAW-HAW: the tragedy of William and Margaret Joyce.

By Nigel Farndale
Macmillan

ISBN: 0 333 98992 9
£20.00.

COMRADE

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THREE OF THE BEST

MY LIFE

Sir Oswald MOSLEY

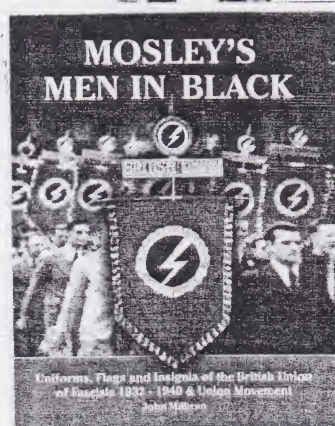


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After the extensive and well received article on 'Mosley in Fiction' published in Comrade 56, John Tanner makes a welcome return with a further look at The Leader's portrayal away from the world of reality.

MOSLEY IN FICTION

John Tanner's Brief Update

No sooner had COMRADE printed my suggestion for an 'alternative history' imagining Mosley as Prime Minister in the 1930s than some papers reported the publication of *The Leader* by former *Times* journalist Guy Walters.



People would hardly expect those who not only knew what OM was really like, but also really liked him, to welcome this tedious tale. However, other reviewers have independently voiced similar judgements on its childish style. Page 1 opens interestingly enough with workers putting up flags for a peacetime visit to King Edward VIII and his new Premier by the German Chancellor, but the rest of this paperback plods downhill for 400 more pages of counter-factual nonsense, including lumpy caricatures of "tubby" Francis Hawkins, "urinating" Bill Allen (here called "Henry"), the "snarling" Leader, etc ... too wearisome for words.

It all ends in farce with Mosley being chased on horseback down Whitehall and then engaged in a melodramatic swordfight, after which he is imprisoned for life; a cross between Zorro and Saddam Hussein. The writer fails to elaborate on the "countless crimes" committed during Mosley's short time in power. Would they include his plans for full employment and slum clearance, or empire development to benefit all its races? These policies were spelled out in detail in his real-life autobiography, but Mr Walters found this "heavy going" and prefers to depict him as an evil tyrant who broke the

"promises" made to "lever" himself into power. The author solemnly thanks a score of assistants, from the good old Wiener Library to his own in-laws, for helping him breathe what he calls "life" into his balderdash. It is instructive to compare his juvenile story with A.P. Nicholson's novel *Who Goes Home?* Written over 70 years ago. This was about a promising politician, also an excellent swordsman, whose amorous adventure brings about his fatal downfall. It has been said that Sir Richard, the central character, was "based on" Sir Oswald. If so, the author wisely put him in a different party and gave him a ginger beard (like Lenin). The contrast between pre-war literary craftsmanship and this latest drivel is immense.

AND STILL THEY COME

Another recent book that likewise reflects the writer's personal unfamiliarity with his subject is *Enough is Enough* by Mark Lawson, a Guardian writer. This is about a plot to get rid of Harold Wilson because of his apparently cosy relationship with the Soviets. In this fictional "reconstruction" of alleged fact, the press magnate Cecil King visits a "stuttering" OM at his Orsay home, misrepresented as usual as a place of self-exile, to learn from his "patriotism and

charisma" though not his "mistakes". Mr Lawson imagines his housekeeper to be an old French peasant crone who would serve "near-putrid cheese" – an insult, of course, to Mrs Lehané and to her employer, whose delicious cuisine and hospitality to every guest, from the Duke of Windsor to the humblest hack from any student newspaper, were always impeccable (as the *Evening Standard's* man-on-the-spot Sam White, among others confirmed). Another hilarious howler: Mosley's moustache "definitely remained" on his face, whereas by the supposed date of this encounter, it had been shaved off.

In later years, Mosley happened to meet, privately entertained, or maintained contact with many well-known people, political critics and friendly enquirers alike – Max Beaverbrook, Harold Macmillan, Richard Lamb, John Betjeman, Arthur Bryant, Richard Crossman, George Hutchinson, Graham Lord, Malcolm Muggeridge, the Bishop

of Southwark, Kenneth Williams, Colin Wilson, and even on one occasion the present Prince of Wales, to select a few at random from a lengthy list.

We know that King met Mosley more than once in London. They agreed that Britain was in decline and heading sooner or later for economic disaster, but the former wanted a "business government", while the latter preferred a "government of national union", whose composition and purposes were explained to interested people on visits to Britain and in his later widely distributed "broadsheets".

Both Walters and Lawson share an ignorance of the real Mosley.

Ignorance is no excuse for vilification of people unable to answer back. Defamation of dead statesmen is more effective, however, if writers have the narrative skill of Philip Roth, for instance, in his "what if" version of the Lindbergh saga in the USA.

The famous novelist and candid critic Wyndham Lewis, who knew Mosley personally, came closer to the truth when in 1937 he said of the real man in true history that he possessed "great political insight and leadership quality". And what nonsense in Blair's Britain of all places to impute to Mosley any desire to establish a "police state" when he planned to encourage popular participation in national affairs, as the German novelist Hans Grimm put it, by "transforming the party system into a free parliament of the realm in which all political oratory would be backed by expert knowledge and expert ability".

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After considerable success over the years in offering audio cassette tapes connected with Sir Oswald Mosley, Brockingday announce the re-release of three titles in the advanced format of C.D. As owners of the original recordings we have, with the aid of modern technology taken advantage of re-mastering the tapes. Due to the age of some of the recordings, this technique has its own limitations. Three C.Ds are now on offer.

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Major P.G. Taylor was the Industrial Adviser of the British Union of Fascists (BUF), a position that he held from 1934 (if not before) through to the bitter end sometime around June 1940. A member of the 'Research Directory' (the movement's Inner Council), Taylor was a man in whom Sir Oswald Mosley placed considerable confidence and, after a major cutback in March 1937, he was reported to have been ensconced in Mosley's office for half an hour while Neil Francis Hawkins, the Director-General, was kept waiting outside.

In the early days, Taylor had been involved in the efforts to bring other Fascist organisations within the BUF fold and, during the phoney war (September 1939 to April 1940), he participated in the discussions on how the BUF could work alongside others (including the British People's Party) to bring about a negotiated peace. Peace initiatives - from both sides - were common currency during this phase of the war, and beyond.

Critically, Taylor also played a key role in the stream of events that led to the arrests of Tyler Kent (a US citizen who had been employed as a code and cipher clerk at the US Embassy), Anna Wolkoff (a Russian-born dress designer and artist) and Captain Archibald Ramsay (the Conservative MP for Peebles and founder of the secret anti-Jewish Right Club). Ramsay was detained from 23 May 1940 to 26 September 1944; Kent (sentenced to 7 years) was inside from 20 May 1940 to 21 November 1944 when he was immediately deported; and Wolkoff (sentenced to 10 years) was arrested the same day as Kent and released on 16 June 1947. Wolkoff's British nationality that she had acquired in 1935 was also revoked.

The existence of this mythical spy ring was the justification used to persuade doubters in the Cabinet that there was a dangerous Fifth Column within the country and that, following the Nazi successes on the Continent of Europe, there was an urgent need to beef up Defence Regulation 18B.

The resulting legislation was directed squarely at the BUF with the consequences that over 1000 BUF members were interned and the movement itself was proscribed. Detailed research by historian Bryan Clough has revealed that "Major P.G. Taylor's" real name was in fact a spy called James McGuirk Hughes.

P.G. TAYLOR

— AGENT PROVOCATEUR

Major P.G. Taylor was a man of many aliases and at the National Headquarters of the BUF it was common knowledge that he was a Government agent, apparently attached to some 'special department' of the Home Office.

It is highly likely that Taylor authored many of the copious reports on the BUF that have recently been transferred from the Home Office to the National Archives. These chronicle the ups and downs of the movement, detail the staff salaries, and reveal other titbits of information that could only have been sourced by a privileged insider.

Secretary-wise, Dr. Robert Forgan (the Director) headed the list in 1934 on £10 per week, followed by Wilfred Risdon (the Director of Propaganda) on £7. William Joyce and Eric Piercy both picked up £5 while Taylor himself got £4.

Another titbit referred to a meeting in July 1934 between Mosley and Rotha Lintorn-Orman. Lintorn-Orman, the granddaughter of Field Marshal Simmons, had founded Britain's first Fascist party (the British Fascisti) in May 1923. Inspired by Mussolini, it was created to counter the Communist threat and, for a time, it could field an impressive team of ex-Generals and Admirals, including Major-General Thomas D. Pilcher, a former ADC to the King who was described as 'Local Officer, London'. One of Pilcher's sons, Gonne St Clair Pilcher (known as 'Toby' to his friends), was one of MI5's legal gurus before picking up a judge's badge and a knighthood in 1942. Less well known at the time were: Maxwell Knight (who finished up as its Deputy Chief of Staff and a member of its Grand Council before joining MI5 in 1931) and William Joyce (the best known broadcaster of German propaganda during WWII.)

Lintorn-Orman, who was reported to be ill caused by excessive drinking, turned down Mosley's final attempt at a merger even though several of her senior officers (including Neil Francis Hawkins and E.G. Mandeville Roe) and the bulk of her membership had already voted with their feet. A few months later, Lintorn-Orman was dead at the age of 40.

REVEALING HISTORICAL FACTS

Some further titbits referred to Taylor himself. For example, we learn from a Special Branch report dated 17 October 1934 (copy to MI5) that Mosley had set up a Court Martial consisting of Eric Piercy, Neil Francis Hawkins and Taylor to try Charles Bradford on the charges of uttering threats against Archibald Findlay (the Deputy Chief of Staff). Bradford was also charged with conspiring with five others in a plot to seize the Black House Headquarters building and then make demands

on Sir Oswald Mosley. The Court Martial found Bradford guilty whilst under the influence of drink and recommended that he should be suspended for three months.

Also, we learn that in March 1935 Taylor was a Vice-President of the Blackshirt Automobile Club and a member of the Research Directory. The other members of the Research Directory at that time were Mosley himself, General 'Boney' Fuller, Eric Piercy, William Joyce, Alexander Raven Thomson, John Beckett, William Leaper, George Sutton and Robert Gordon-Canning. Apart from Taylor himself, only Fuller, Joyce and Leaper of this group would escape internment after Hitler had replaced Stalin as Public Enemy No 1.

It is now known that 'Boney' Fuller and his wife were on the 'Suspect List' (of people who would be rounded up in the event of an invasion) but at the time it was evidently considered that their internment was not a good idea. Joyce narrowly avoided arrest by hot-footing it to Germany.

REVEALING TESTIMONY

P.G. Taylor's role in the BUF was first revealed to a wider public by Alex Miles, a 'sometime Director of Industrial Propaganda' of the BUF. Miles had decided to go public after resigning his job in 1936. Miles spoke at a public meeting organised by the Southend Anti-Fascist Council in

April 1937, and his speech was later published in a pamphlet *Mosley in Motley*.

According to Miles, Taylor was the head of a department within the BUF called 'Z' Intelligence, although Mosley had denied its existence when challenged during an action for slander that he had brought against John Marchbank, the general secretary of the National Union of Railwaymen in February 1936. Miles' allegation regarding the existence of Taylor's intelligence role is corroborated by a Special Branch report dated 17 October 1934 and the existence of the 'Z' Intelligence Department is corroborated by a Home Office report dated March 1935. (No proof has been found that shows the leader knew anything about this secret group).

Miles also reported that 'Taylor ... lived at Sloane Street, Chelsea where he had three separate telephone lines ... each listed under a different name, none of which is Taylor ... [He] openly boasts that he was expelled from Soviet Russia for espionage and of his membership of the CPGB (Communist Party of Great Britain) for the same purpose'. Taylor lived in a flat at 144 Sloane Street from 1935 to 1960. (MI5's Maxwell Knight had a flat at number 38 for a couple of years in the thirties.)

Unusually for a senior official of the BUF (but not for a Government agent), Taylor was extremely camera shy and very few photographs of him have been found in his guise as a member of the BUF. However, the late John Warburton remembered him from the thirties. According to John, 'he was 40-ish, of average height and



KINGSTON B.U.F. BRANCH DINNER EVERYONE SMILES AND LOOKS TOWARDS THE CAMERA, EXCEPT FOR ONE TOP TABLE GUEST



CAUGHT OFF GUARD. THE SHY SPY McGUIRK HUGHES ATTEMPTING TO HIDE HIS FEATURES FROM THE ALL SEEING CAMERA



McGUIRK HUGHES A.K.A. P.G. TAYLOR, CAPTAIN HOWARD, CAPTAIN CUNNINGHAM

sported a small moustache. He was every inch a cultured Englishman, a typical ex-Army major'.

A chapter on a book that he was writing on the BUF has also come to light and, curiously, he wrote it in the third person and refers to himself accordingly:

Among other arrivals was P.G. Taylor, no one ever knew what P.G. stood for, if anything - unless it was Please God - he wouldn't be found out. He became a sort of super sleuth - the leader of Dept Z as the Secret Service was called, later Industrial Adviser which lasted until 1940.

Mrs B who is now in her eighties and had worked at National Headquarters during the thirties, also remembers him. 'He was then in his mid-thirties ... and always smartly dressed'. She has also confirmed that Taylor's affiliation to the Home Office was general knowledge and that, when he was in the office, he gave a ready grin whenever he

was asked 'if he had caught anyone today'.

Mrs B also recalls seeing Taylor on one occasion when he was leaving a local Catholic church with a woman and a teenage girl whom she assumed to be his wife and daughter. On that occasion, Taylor cut her dead. 'It was as though he didn't want to mix family with business'.

REVEALING THE MAN

James McGuirk Hughes - the man who posed as P.G. Taylor - was born in Toxteth Park, Liverpool on 18 June 1897. His father, Arthur Hughes, was a tram owner and his mother was the former Katherine McGuirk. Hughes married Valerie Julia Taylor Tahan at a Catholic church in Fulham on 19 June 1920. He gave his occupation as 'Political Organiser'. Hughes' father was reported dead but it now seems more likely that his parents' marriage had broken down. Valerie's father, Zachary, was described as an Oriental Merchant. When their daughter Patricia Valerie Catherine arrived on 29 March 1923, Hughes had become James Patrick McGuirk-Hughes but Valerie had dropped 'Taylor' perhaps coincident with the creation of Hughes' best known alias.

Over the years, Hughes continually rang the changes on his real name: sometimes, it was hyphenated; at other times, it was double barrelled but unhyphenated but, in 1940 when Captain Ramsay listed him as a member of the Right Club, he was entered as Captain J. Hughes.

Hughes' military background is not fully supported by the Army Lists. He appears on the MI5 Staff List as a Lance Corporal in the Military Foot Police from 13th February 1916 to 6th August 1919 but the absence of medals on his Medal Card suggests that he did not see any active service. However, this would not necessarily have been recorded if he had been engaged on intelligence work. There is no record of Hughes ever having made either Captain or Major but honorary ranks have often been sprinkled on Government agents. In 1924, Hughes and some members of the British Fascisti were implicated in a break-in at the London HQ of the Red International of Labour Unions where, he would claim, 'important information' was collected. Between the wars, Hughes served as secretary of the Liverpool branch of the British Empire Union where his main job was to infiltrate and sabotage trade unions and left-wing groups. In this, he collaborated

with Special Branch.

In 1934, Hughes was immortalised by Maxwell Knight in his first novel *Crime Cargo*. The novel is memorable only because of the teasing references that Knight made to his friends. Hughes appeared as 'Baldy McGurk' who was described as a 'pig-eyed Irishman'. Hughes was certainly bald and the reference to a pig was clearly inspired by

Taylor's unfortunate choice of initials.

In 1937, Taylor persuaded four BUF members to burgle the home of Major Vernon, a technical officer at the Royal Aircraft Establishment at Farnborough and, on this occasion, he claimed to have been working for MI5. Unfortunately for the burglars, the police caught them making their getaway in a car sporting a BUF flag. At their trial, the four burglars were found guilty of larceny and bound over for 12 months. However, some of the papers that they had stolen from Vernon were deemed sensitive and Vernon was prosecuted under the Official Secrets Act. He was found guilty, fined £30, and lost his job.

One of the burglars, John Preen, who was later interned under Defence Regulation 18B then used the work he had done for Taylor in a plea to secure his release.

Unfortunately for Preen, the brownie points that he may have earned from his efforts on behalf of national security were not recognised by the Advisory Committee.

Thanks to Nigel West, we have confirmation that Major Vernon was, indeed, a spy employed by the GRU (Soviet Military Intelligence) in a cell run by Ernest D. Weiss, a concert pianist. This revelation is in West's book *Venona* (1999) and thanks to Frank Johnson (*The Daily Telegraph*), we also know that Vernon resurfaced after the war as the Labour MP for the Dulwich division of Camberwell (1945-1951).

For the record, Wilfrid Foulston Vernon (his first name has often been misspelled) was born in 1882 and died in 1975. He was an engineer with a naval background who was commissioned as a major in the Royal Air Force. According to *Who's Who*, he quit the Royal Aircraft Establishment in 1937 but, during the war, he worked with Tom Wintringham, training the Home Guard.

Wintringham (1898-1949) was a prominent Communist of the pre-war era whose claims to fame include having been one of the

twelve Communists who were tried for sedition in 1925 (he was assistant editor of *Workers' Weekly*) and in having commanded the International Brigade's British contingent in the Spanish Civil War.

Clearly, MI5 had got the correct measure of Vernon in 1937, so his name should now be added to the long list of Soviet spies who, for some reason, were allowed to carry on with business as usual, despite their being security risks.

REVEALING A SPY AT WORK

On 9 April 1940, P.G. Taylor - or rather his alter ego James Hughes - played the most important role of his career when, after being introduced to Anna Wolkoff, he asked her if she could send a communication to William Joyce who was then in Germany broadcasting Nazi propaganda and making a name for himself as 'Lord Haw-Haw'. Wolkoff's family had been dispossessed by the Russian revolution and she was vehemently anti-Jewish. When Hughes told her that the letter contained some 'good anti-Jewish material' that Joyce could use in his broadcasts, Wolkoff said that she would see what she could do.

It was her lucky day or so she thought because, later that evening, Hélène de Munck went into the Russian Tea Rooms that were run by Anna's parents and she casually mentioned to Admiral Wolkoff, Anna's father, that she had a friend at the Rumanian Legation who was leaving for the Continent the next day. The Rumanian angle was a good card to play because de Munck had some Rumanian blood in her.

The old Admiral trotted over to share the news with Anna who swallowed the bait by rushing across to de Munck and demanding if it were true. On receiving de Munck's confirmation, she demanded 'Why didn't you tell me this before?' She then handed the letter over to de Munck.

Of course, de Munck was an MI5 undercover agent and, at her trial, Wolkoff's indiscretion would be sufficient for her to be categorised as 'an enemy agent' under the Official Secrets Acts. This then ensured that Tyler Kent could similarly be brought within the ambit of the Official Secrets Acts. More immediately, it also resulted in the internment of Captain Ramsay and for the allegation to be made that Mosley and Ramsay were 'in relations', presumably on the strength of a few meetings that they had both attended at which Taylor had also

been present.

Curiously, even though MI5 had carried out their sting on 9 April 1940, they waited until 20 May before arresting Wolkoff and Kent. According to Robert Bruce Lockhart, who was then Lord Beaverbrook's assistant and therefore in the know, the truth of the matter was that Winston Churchill, who had become Prime Minister on 10 May 1940, had promised the Labour Party that 'the Government will deal ruthlessly with the Fifth Column' if they supported his bid to become Prime Minister. Naturally, Churchill did the honourable thing and fulfilled his election pledge. The move went down well with the media and with the CPGB both of who equated the mythical Fifth Column with the BUF.

One man, Aubrey Lees (not to be confused with Arnold Leese, the leading light of the Imperial Fascist League) had particular cause for grievance because he was arrested and interned on 20 June 1940, even though he had never been a member of the BUF. Lees, who was vehemently anti-Jewish, had attended meetings of The Link and the Nordic League, both of which closed down on the outbreak of war. Later, when Lees was interviewed by the 18B Advisory Committee, he told them that he had come across a man whom he considered to have been an *agent provocateur*.

The man whom Lees fingered was E.G. Mandeville Roe, formerly a senior member of the British Fascists who had joined the BUF at the same time as Neil Francis Hawkins. It is extraordinary that the Committee should have prompted Lees in this manner but Lees then went on to tell the Committee that he knew 'this fellow Hughes' and that he also knew him to be an agent of the Home Office. He said that they had become 'quite friendly' and that, on one occasion, he had asked him: 'By the way, aren't you a Home Office agent, or expert, or something?' Hughes replied, 'I was'.

Another person with a real grievance was Anna Wolkoff. She had wanted to call Hughes as a witness at her trial but, according to the Earl Jowitt, who published a summary of the trial in 1954, the man who had handed her the letter 'was never identified ... [and] ... could not be called as a witness'.

In 1940, Jowitt had been the Solicitor-General and he had prosecuted both Kent and Wolkoff and, as no transcript has ever been published on Wolkoff's trial, his was the definitive explanation, however implausible

in view of Wolkoff having been kept under close surveillance by MI5.

However, a few years ago following a relaxation of policy, I was granted privileged access to the Home Office files on Anna Wolkoff. These had been marked 'closed for 75 years', so they were not due to be opened until 2015. (This file among others has since been released into the National Archives). Although the files had been heavily 'weeded', a report on the revocation of Wolkoff's British nationality in August 1943 had survived and this shows that she had wanted to call a number of witnesses to the hearing, including 'one Hughes'. The Committee reported that:

We did not consider the evidence of these persons ... would be of sufficient importance to justify the postponement of the hearing before us. The matters of the attendance of Hughes and the nature of the evidence which he might have given were fully considered at the trial at the Central Criminal Court.

So, at last, here was corroboration that the Earl Jowitt had fudged the issue.

Elsewhere in the files, Anna Wolkoff also went on record as saying that the man who handed her the letter had three aliases, one of which may have been 'Cunningham' (It was and he was another Captain, a further alias was Captain Howard.) Moreover, Anna believed that he was working for MI2, whereas the woman who had offered to put the letter in a diplomatic bag (Hélène de Munck) was working for MI5.

Hughes is believed to have gone to some South American country on an intelligence assignment after his stint with the BUF came to a close but, according to his granddaughter, he was whisked away to Scotland during WWII because 'his life was in danger'. But there's an alternative possibility: maybe it was so that he could not have been called as a witness at her trial.

In summary, therefore, Anna Wolkoff's crime was to take a letter from one *agent provocateur* (Hughes) and hand it to a second *agent provocateur* (de Munck).

So far as is known, Churchill never commented on MI5's most infamous sting operation but, if he had, he might well have declared that 'Never in the field of human endeavour have so many been incarcerated for so long on such flimsy trumped-up evidence'.

Of course, there is a lot more to it than that, as you can discover from my book *State Secrets: The*

Kent-Wolkoff Affair but, at least, you are now familiar with some of the activities of Britain's most extraordinary *agent provocateur*. However, the uses to which he put his other known aliases (Captain Howard and Captain Cunningham) still remain mysteries.

For the record, James McGuirk Hughes who died in 1983, also wrote two novels both published under nom de plumes: *Spying in Russia* by John Vidor (1929) and *Revolt* by A.P. Roley (1933).

Acknowledgements

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BLIND MEN'S BLUFF?

A Chinese defence lawyer, who has handled cases of torture and persecution, claims that the Chinese Communist Party has been responsible for the deaths of 80 million people, but Western governments desperate to "trade with the world's fastest growing economy" have "turned a blind eye" (Observer, 29 January 2006).

The Council of Europe in Paris complains that there has been no international enquiry into crimes committed by the Soviet and other communist regimes (Times 26 January 2006). It documented some 20 million deaths from murder, deportations and starvation to the USSR, plus 2 million each in North Korea and Cambodia, 1.7million in Africa, 1 million in Vietnam, 1 million in eastern Europe, 150,000 in Latin America, etc.

The precise circumstances and statistical details can be debated, of course, as with almost every other 20th century horror. However, relatively little TV time ever seems to go on these communist atrocities. Their innocent victims have yet to get their "Remembrance Day" or "Holocaust Museums". Why this discrimination? Not very "tolerant" or "compassionate" is it?

C.W.

Behind the high profile named members of the British Union, marched countless thousands of men and women dedicated to the cause who made up the vital link between policy and the general public. "Let he leads who can" was the slogan. Street corner meetings, leaflet bashing, selling the newspaper, office work, fund raising socials even down to making the humble but necessary cuppa. A myriad group of convinced volunteers who were determined to help put back the GREAT into BRITAIN.

These people have for the most part slipped into history, remaining anonymous, but with the stupendous amount of research now being undertaken into so many aspects of B.U. history (stimulated in large part by twenty years of Comrade) it is not surprising that 'names' do surface. Some are interesting enough to instigate further research in order to profile their contribution to the cause. One such person was a young man called William Samuel Bogle who was first noted by historian/researcher John Anderson when writing his article on overseas branches of the British Union. Intriguingly, Bogle operated the Black House Radio Station G.2.Q.D. Certainly not a jobsworth position, as government examination and a knowledge of Morse were mandatory to hold such a position. Here certainly was a foot soldier worthy of a second glance.

A FACE IN THE CROWD

By John Anderson

Born in 1901 William Samuel Bogle was the son of Robert Bogle, a civil servant. During the first World War he served in the Royal Navy, where he undoubtedly picked up his initial radio skills. Photographic evidence of his medal ribbons indicate he was involved in R.N. mine clearance that went on until 1920.

Following that period, he lived in Claughton, Birkenhead where he met his future wife, Olive Richardson. They were married on 8th August 1927, at the local Parish Church, and made their home at 10, Christchurch Road, Claughton. In May the following year their daughter Margaret was born.

It was the custom within the Movement, when referring to N.H.Q. officials to only use their surname, so in true B.U. tradition 'Bogle' will be used from this point.

Early Days – The 'Black House'

An early recruit to British Union, no date has yet been discovered for his recruitment. He is first recorded during December 1933 as officer in charge of the Radio Department at National Headquarters, 33 King's Road, Chelsea. He was also an early member of the National Defence Force, organised by Eric Hamilton Piercy the Movement's 3rd most senior officer. Piercy had been a Special Inspector with the Metropolitan Police, but had been forced to resign due to his association with the Blackshirts. In March 1934, Bogle appeared as a member of the Special Detachment that led the 1st London Propaganda March. This detachment formed the cadre of the movement's elite I Squad, which Bogle typically joined, where many of its members would later hold high ranking posts throughout the life of the organisation. While in the I Squad Bogle took part in all the duties of the unit – from transport driver, steward, and orderly at

Headquarters. He also attended all the major National meetings – Albert Hall, Olympia, and Hyde Park for example.

A degree of the regard held for Bogle, at this stage, is demonstrated when, in April 1935, Bogle with nine fellow I Squad members was selected to form a special guard of honour at NHQ. This was the occasion of the funeral of NHQ employee David Prichard who had died in a motor cycle accident, near Staines.

Around this time he was under the command of Lionel Aitken, Officer in Charge of Premises, Recruiting and Enquires. This section included F Knowles and 'Yorky' Rawlinson both fellow I Squad members - with Bogle holding the rank of Unit Leader. However, it was not long before he was promoted to the rank of Sub-Company Officer and appointed as Orderly Officer of the Day within a unit which was called the 'White Guard'. This unit contained the men who ensured the smooth running of the premises, supplied the guards to the entrances and escorted visitors around the building. Bogle held this post until the 'Black House' was sold and a new HQ opened in the Sanctuary Buildings, Westminster.

Westminster Abbey District

The move to the Sanctuary Buildings provided an opportunity to divide the Westminster branch in two – becoming known as the St George's and Abbey districts. The Abbey district captured those members already living in the area, and also provided an



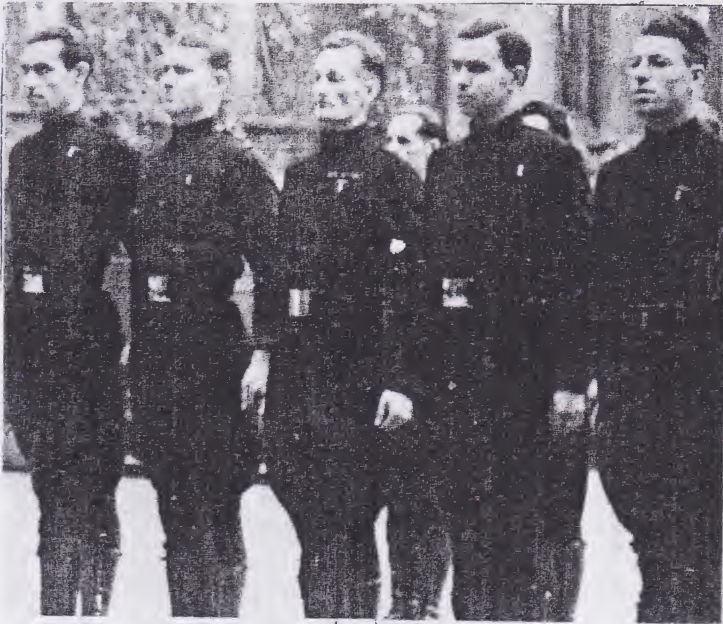
FIRST PROPAGANDA MARCH PROGRESSING ALONG LONDONS EMBANKMENT. BOGLE CAN BE SEEN ON THE OUTSIDE FLANK



BOGLE ON THE LEFT. FRANCIS HAWKINS CAN ALSO BE SEEN IN THE PICTURE

administrative home for the NHQ staff which had been formally been attached to the 'Black House' branch.

William Clarkson was appointed as Abbey's first District Officer and he quickly convened a general meeting for Wednesday



BOGLE IN THE MIDDLE OF A PARADE

14th August, in the office of the London Command; now located on the second floor of the Sanctuary Building. Here the other officers of the district were announced: District Treasurer, Ackerley; Assistant District Officer (Canvass), Bogle; Assistant District Officer (Sales), Wilder; Assistant District Officer (Propaganda), McNab and Women's District Officer, Miss Aitken. It was also decided that the focus of the district's attention should be in the Tachbrook Street area with Trafalgar Square as the location of their first public meeting. Finally, the district would be temporarily housed at NHQ; until suitable accommodation had been secured.

The location of NHQ and the attachment of many of its permanent staff provided an excellent pool of speakers for Clarkson and McNab to draw on. Mrs Anne Brock-Griggs, Alexander Raven Thompson and A K Chesterton, all made regular appearances, addressing crowds of up to 600, which soon became

the norm.

Bogle's main role, as A.D.O. (Canvass) was to be prospective election agent for the district. As such, he had to develop a team of Division 1 members operating in each of Abbey's wards. He was also responsible for the canvass and in particular for regular weekly calls by the Division 1 teams to collect subscriptions from the Division 3 members and increase sales of the Movement's publications to them. This he did in conjunction with the A.D.O. (Sales). In fact Bogle became the electoral spearhead for the district which finally resulted in the selection of Vice-Admiral R. St. P. Parry, D.S.O., M.V.O. as its Prospective Parliamentary Candidate for the next General Election.

By Christmas 1935 he had taken over as A.D.O. (Sales) from T Wilder who in turn had moved over to the propaganda section as A.D.O. (Propaganda). At this time Bogle was luckily working closely with several of his former I Squad members including Unit Leaders; Bussey, Graham,

Rawlinson, Lord and Waters.

Bogle held this post until the summer of 1936 when he was appointed to a new and even more challenging position - District Officer for Paddington South.

Paddington South District

Originally known as the Bayswater Branch, the Paddington District was an early success story in the history of the BUF development. Organised by Deputy Branch Officer Sullivan, by March 1933, the Paddington group had quickly attained branch status. From this key milestone the branch progressed steadily and by January 1934 had become the home of the West London Regional Council; later renamed the West London Command operating from 27, Pembridge Villas, Paddington, W11. At this stage the branch was under the command of Branch Officer, Mahon, while his wife ran the Women's Section. Other key members included Section Leader, Doyle - the Senior Defence Force Officer; Sub Branch Officer, Godward and Propaganda Officer, Waddingham.

Interestingly, a significant portion if the Paddington branch membership were drawn from the Hamilton Motor Factory, located at 466-490, Edgware Road. This company had supplied the famous 'bottle proof' vans to NHQ, which were mainly used for transporting speakers and members of London Defence Force across London and the suburbs. These vehicles had originally been intended for the Russian Postal Service, but after the contract was cancelled the BUF stepped-in and secured a quick purchase.

The Paddington branch continued to make steady progress throughout 1934 and into 1935; challenging continually for the coveted 'Blackshirt' Sales Cup. During this time several members



BOGLE SELLING THE BLACKSHIRT NEWSPAPER

including Miss M Forester, Mr G. Waddingham and Mr C. Barnick were selling more than 150 copies per week. For their effort each received a copy of 'Greater Britain', autographed by the Leader. However, at the end of the period, it was Hammersmith and then North London that would eventually take the cup. During the spring of 1935, NHQ officer, Charles F Wegg-Prosser was appointed as District Officer to the Paddington Branch. His appointment occurred following a series of communist attacks on the previous District Officer and also the branch premises. At one occasion there was even an attempt to burn the offices down. Wegg-Prosser was aided by another well-known NHQ officer called George Dunlop, both men would later play a key role in the rise of the East London Blackshirts. Under Wegg-Prosser the branch flourished and by June 1935 sufficient progress had been made to split the branch in two forming Paddington North under District Officer Bray and Paddington South under District Officer Greaves.

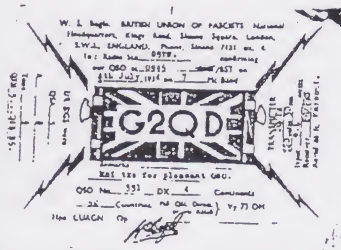
Following a concentrated push by local communists to drive out the Paddington South members, the post of District Officer once again became vacant. NHQ moved immediately and



THE FUNERAL OF DAVID PRITCHARD. BOGLE CAN BE SEEN THIRD FROM THE RIGHT IN THE SPECIAL GUARD OF HONOUR

appointed Bogle. He took up his appointment in June at district HQ now located at 85 Westbourne Park Road, Paddington. At his first meeting with the branch officers he declared 'within 6 months this branch will hold the Leaders Sales Cup'; an awesome challenge! Dividing the district into separate wards he allocated the members into 'Action' teams - Team Leaders included Women's District Officer Swain, Miss Taylor, Miss Fortune and Miss Stratton, and from the men's section Blackshirts Grove, Calder, Pile and Gardiner. In December, as predicted, it was announced they had won the cup. This coincided with news that Bogle would be leaving the district to take over the a more prestigious post as District Inspector.

But his duties were not quite finished, in January, representing the district membership he attended the marriage of Blackshirts C W Calder and Miss D E Cox.



THE BLACK HOUSE RADIO
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District Inspector - London
Command

The post of District Inspector was created following the reorganisation of the area administration system which although necessary in the early days, had produced a decentralised structure with too much independence from NHQ. In London, the implication of this change was to move from five councils, based on the London regions i.e. North London Regional Council etc. to a more structured district inspectorate of twelve areas, each containing between 5 and 10 districts. Each District Inspector reported directly to the Senior London Administrator, who by 1937 was Captain U A Hick of the London Command.

Where possible, each District Inspector would be appointed from within his own inspection area. If this was not possible then a NHQ official would be selected, but preferably with the aide of a locally recruited subordinate, officially known as the Assistant District Inspector. In addition, the District Inspector would have the support of the Women's Canvass Officer, the Area Propaganda Officer and the

Area Cadet Leader.

The role of the District Inspector was mainly that of liaison. His job was to be a link between the local membership and NHQ. For this he needed to know, not only the officers of each district but most of the 1st and 2nd Division membership and preferably many of the 3rd Division non-active members. Therefore, when appointing a NHQ District Inspector he was usually one with either a high profile or one which had come into contact with numerous members of the organisation. Bogle certainly met the latter.

Bogle was appointed District Inspector of the 2nd London Area in February 1937. This area covered the districts of Finsbury, Islington North – South and East, St Marylebone and finally St Pancras. Here his first objective was to organise the area's Eve of Coronation Carnival, to be held at Gatti's Restaurant, King Williams Street, Strand, on Tuesday 11th May. To assist him, he called on W. A. Cooper, another former I Squad member and by then District Leader for St Marylebone, and from all reports they did an excellent job, with the carnival drawing the support over 300 members.

It is a measure of Bogle's worth that he survived the massive 1937 cutback of salaried staff when nearly 80% had to go because of financial difficulties.

By the autumn District Inspector Bogle had transferred to the 7th London Area. His new operational area covered the districts of Chelsea, Hammersmith North, Hammersmith South, Fulham East and Fulham West; and also the districts of Kensington South, Kensington North and finally Putney. These districts had originally formed the Regional Councils of West and South West London. To support Bogle his team of senior officers of the area included Miss Ann Good, Women's Canvass Officer; Podger, Assistant District Inspector; Cottrell, Area Propaganda Officer and Flockhart, Cadet Leader. Bogle was also fortunate to have at least two qualified Election Agents – Miss Anne Good and H Hewitt (District Leader of Hammersmith South).

The first Wednesday evening of each month was set for the leaders of the districts to meet where updates on the latest BU policy were communicated. It also provided the forum to raise any local issues which NHQ needed to be made aware.

Senior officials of the movement were always keen to hear how the 7th was progressing. Captain



WILLIAM SAMUEL BOGLE

Hick, Senior London Administrator had been a founding member of the Fulham Branch and there an early Branch Officer; C Pertwee, a National Organising Officer, had founded the Hammersmith Branch in association with the Vincent brothers – George and Stanley. George G Vincent went on to help form the Northern Administration while Stanley organised the Kent region from his base at Ashford. Another NHQ official with a long association with this area was Capt Ernie Mathews, he was in charge of all maintenance work at National Headquarters.

Final Years

By March 1938, Bogle had passed on his duties as District Inspector to Podger to concentrate his attention on his NHQ work. By this stage the movement was having a dramatic upsurge in membership; mainly due to the ever worsening International situation. Now working exclusively in the Enquiry Office, Bogle, together with C Payne, G Armsden and V Calcroft he dealt with the constant flow of personal and telephone calls declaring an interest in joining the

organisation or seeking further information. The documented influx of new members during this pre war period is testament indeed to both his dedication and hard work for the movement.

In 1940, Bogle, together with most of the NHQ staff and almost 1000 district members and supporters, was arrested and interned under the controversial 18B legislation. Bogle did not join Union Movement. A long suffering consumptive, he decided to settle, after his release, in the clean air of the Lincolnshire Wolds, taking a less demanding position as an engineers clerk. Following the publication of Mosley's seminal work *THE ALTERNATIVE*, Bogle, now in failing health wrote to Mosley congratulating him on the book. This confirms the oft said 'ONCE A MOSLEY MAN, ALWAYS A MOSLEY MAN'. He passed away aged just 49 on the 13th September 1950 of Pulmonary Tuberculosis.

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Louise Irvine

LAST OF THE HOLLOWAY GALS

It is with the deepest regret we announce the death of Louise Irvine, women's organiser for the Birmingham Area and wife of the late Lawrence 'Inky' Irvine, District Inspector for Birmingham. After both suffering internment under Regulation 18B they embraced the post-war policy of Europe A Nation and became founder members of Union Movement. With business interests relocating them to East Anglia, a thriving branch was established in Clacton, which in turn spread to other towns in the area.

Thanks to F.O.M. archives we are able to publish, this well deserved appreciation, culled mainly from her own words.

In 1935 at the age of 20, I arrived in Birmingham to take up my first teaching appointment after leaving Training College. My local Education Authority had granted me a loan to get through college and this loan had to be paid back during my first year's teaching.

As a student of history I had become interested in contemporary politics. I had a leaning towards a vague kind of Utopian Socialism. I was appalled by the economic conditions that I found in Birmingham. I had never seen anything like the back-to-back slum houses existing in parts of the city. Something needed to be done as a matter of urgency, but the Labour Party with its "pie-in-the-sky" attitude seemed more interested in international affairs than in Britain's internal problems. Action was needed now, and action required a political leader of outstanding intelligence, energy and vision. I could see no-one like that in the Labour Party.

Mosley's constructive 'Birmingham Proposals' of 1925 has not been forgotten by the people of Birmingham. I soon heard about them and decided that his policies represented socialism at a national level – a highly patriotic kind of socialism – and that I should join his movement.

This I did in 1936, enrolling at the BUF's local branch in Stafford Street. On the ground floor was a bookshop open to the public, where our literature and journals and books of general political interest were on sale. On the first floor above was branch organizer's office where he could see members and prospective members, and other rooms used for members' meetings, speakers' schools etc.

At the time I joined, the movement was undergoing decentralization and paid officials such as National Inspectors, Assistant National Inspectors, and County Inspectors, were being replaced by unpaid volunteers. Birmingham Branch's bookshop and offices were

manned by voluntary workers. There was high unemployment even in comparatively prosperous Birmingham, so someone was usually available during the day as well as in the evenings to keep the branch premises open. Even intelligent, highly-skilled men could not obtain work. My own services were soon taken up at weekends.

What kind of people belonged to Birmingham Branch? A wide cross-section of the community: One member was a son of one of the oldest and largest brewers in Birmingham while another was a well-known independent brewer; a well-to-do coal merchant belonged to our branch, while we also had solicitors, teachers like myself, doctors, bank clerks, newspapermen (both reporters and technical staff), large and small restaurant owners, many small factory owners (these small metal works abounded at the time in Birmingham), office workers, skilled and unskilled factory workers, railway workers (their pay abominable in the 1930s), shop keepers and shop assistants and busmen. The wearing of the simple black shirt eliminated all feelings of 'class distinction'.

The women members were equally diverse: teachers, secretaries, nurses, waitresses, domestic workers, housewives etc.

Some time after I joined Birmingham Branch, the women's Organizer had to give up active membership because of ill-health and I took over from her. The BUF's policy of sex equality meant that in many ways women were not treated as a separate section, being encouraged and expected to take part in any and every activity. Weekly women's meetings were instituted to discuss women's problems and how best they

could help in propagating our cause. The women members were very active indeed in selling Action on the streets and in distributing and selling literature at indoor and open-air meetings. Some developed the ability to speak at meetings. Obviously the women members were invaluable at organising such fund-raising functions as socials and bazaars. My husband-to-be became Branch Organizer, and later as more branches were opened in and around Birmingham, District Inspector. We devoted all our spare time to the Movement. It was an exciting and hopeful period in which to live.

The outbreak of war in 1939 was a shattering blow to us. It seemed unthinkable that twenty years after the First World War ended Europe should once again be rent apart.

In June 1940, my future husband was imprisoned under Defence Regulation 18B, firstly in Walton Goal, Liverpool, then in Stafford Prison and afterwards in the internment camps at York Race Course and Peel on the Isle of Man. At the end of 1941 he was released and almost immediately was called up for military service, spending 4 ½ years in the Army.

In November 1940 I too was arrested. For me it was Holloway Prison and then the women's internment camp at Port Erin on the Isle of Man.

As a prisoner in Holloway Louise joined an elite group of female activists. It was at this point she first met a fellow detainee, Lady Diana Mosley. It was a friendship that was to endure for over sixty years.

I was never intimate enough with her to know how much she really suffered mentally and physically, being away from her children, as I never heard her openly complain. Her sense of humour was enormous, but there must have been a lot of heartache underneath. She abhorred

sentimentality, but had a great depth of true feelings. Her loyalty and steadfastness were unquestionable.

Sometimes she would ask me personally to join her in walking round the exercise ground, and sometimes by invitation I visited her cell with a few other members, just for ordinary conversation and companionship. Heavy politics were rarely discussed, but talk ranged over books, literature, music, art, etc., and I realised what a vast knowledge and love of beauty she had.

Released a year and a half later meant Louise was able to resume her teaching career.

In 1945, after the death and destruction caused by the war we were faced with a completely different world situation, and a changing society. In 1951 my husband and I motored through Europe to visit an old friend in Regensburg in South West Germany. Everywhere there was evidence of wartime bombing, but also hope was proceeding at a furious pace. In Germany, we took miles of 'Road Diversions' where road reconstructions were going on. Regensburg, a beautiful town on the Danube, is full of European history, from Roman times onward. At the time of our visit it was in the American occupation zone and our friend always introduced us to her fellow Germans as 'English – Not Americans!' We were welcomed with an extra ordinary lack of hatred or bitterness. It was this trip that completed our feeling of 'Europeanism' and that we in Britain are very much part of Europe. Oswald Mosley was again ahead of his time in his thinking when he declared his concept of Europe A Nation.

Louise had a long and fulfilling life and never regretted her chosen political path. In her 90th year she still gave valuable insights on aspects of current politics.

